Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-030 *13 February 1990*

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Cuba

Aldana on Mandela's Release, Withdrawal of Troops

FL1202144090 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1249 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Interview with Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Reporter] Comrade Aldana, we would like for you to give us your views on the contributions the release of South African leader Nelson Mandela has made to the world.

[Aldana] I believe it undoubtedly states that only resistance, struggle, and of course, intelligence can lead to substantial progress, the victory of the peoples' cause, and, in this case, the just struggle of the South African people to achieve the right to be in their country, in their land, and to become the main players in their own history.

Undoubtedly, Mandela is one of the most brilliant personalities of this century and will trascend this century. It has not only been 27 years of perhaps the most difficult test a man can be subjected to—see how he is practically unrecognizable—but his entire life, from his early youth, he has been dedicated, without rest and without the slightest shirking, to the cause of national independence in the social and deepest sense. He has been dedicated to putting an end the irrational apartheid regime.

I believe that we have to also take into account the action of this South African white minority that has resulted in Mandela's release. They wanted to do it earlier, but Mandela refused. Mandela said he could not leave jail and go to the same South Africa that incarcerated him. Although his demands were not completely met, the fact that before his release, the African National Congress [ANC] and the Communist Party—that is, the people's organization of the black majority—were legalized is a great victory Mandela won from jail. Victory is not only Mandela's release, but the fact that Mandela set conditions for his release. He is a combatant who achieved victory from jail even before he was released.

He did not obtain everything he asked for because the regime has restrictions that have yet to be resolved. However, I believe he said: Only a free man can negotiate. He has become the banner, the mind, and the model for this negotiation aimed at finding a solution to the unjust situation South Africa's regime has imposed.

I believe that one also has to recognize the fact that this political position the white minority has assumed is a realistic one. It led to Mandela's release and earlier to the legalization of the ANC. It was an intelligent and courageous decision. To deny this would not be fair.

Let us look into the roots of this victory that we can all celebrate today. Even our children are celebrating. You remember that a few years ago, they contributed to the building of a new house for Manela's wife when the house was destroyed by racists. This victory has its roots in that struggle of the South African people, the struggle of its leaders and martyrs, which number in the thousands. Its driving force is also seen—and history will recognize this—Cuito Cuanavale and the victory of the South-West African People's Organization in Namibia.

[Reporter] Comrade Aldana, taking advantage of this opportunity and within the framework of what you mentioned, could you tell us something about the temporary postponement of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola?

[Aldana] Yes. I believe it is appropriate to inform our people that from the time our leadership, with complete agreement of the Angolan leadership, made the decision, as the only adequate one in the face of the reiterated actions of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] against Cuban troops despite earlier promises, an intense consultation process and efforts have taken place to find a minimum of guarantees that would allow the resumption of the withdrawal process. This is our wish, since we are strongly committed to compliance with the timetable. As is known, we have been strictly complying with it.

These efforts have yielded some results. Some African chiefs of state have shown interest, and UNITA has apologized and has reiterated its firm determination that the attacks will not be repeated. However, this is not enough for us. We believe this commitment has to be formalized within the framework of the tripartite commission, taking into consideration the links the United States has with UNITA—the United States gives logistical and political support—and the relations South Africa has had with UNITA for a long time.

Unfortunately, the commission's meeting, which was scheduled for mid-February, has been postponed. In South Africa's case, we believe all these events could be an acceptable reason for postponing the meeting for a little while. In the case of the U.S., we cannot figure out its reasons for postponement.

We have to express our concern that if this meeting is postponed even longer, the suspension of the withdrawal of Cuban troops will be delayed accordingly. Until the commitment that acts such as the attacks on Cuban troops are not going to be repeated is thoroughly formalized, we cannot resume the return of our troops, which is what we wish.

Former U.S. Official Cited on TV Marti

PA1202222690 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The U.S. Congress has just approved $16 million for the so-called Television Marti television station, which will beam anti-Cuba programs to the island. Several personalities, such as Dr. Wayne Smith, former head of the Office of U.S. Interests in Havana, have criticized this project. Smith reported that this project, unprecedented in the history of telecommunications, violates international accords, particularly the International Telecommunications Convention signed by the United States and Cuba in 1982. [Smith in English, with simultaneous Spanish translation] "My concern, and I think that of many Americans, is whether this project is compatible with international agreements. Not much importance seems to have been attached to this subject in discussions in the United States. It is a pity, because I think that the manner in which Television Marti will go on the air represents a violation of, among other things, the telecommunications agreement signed in 1982. I am sorry my own government intends to violate international accords." Dr. Smith told Havana Radio that when an opposite scenario occurs, the U.S. Government acts rapidly.

[Smith] "I recall that a short [break in reception] international waters and started broadcasting to the New York metropolitan area. The U.S. authorities immediately ordered this station closed and said that it had no right to broadcast. They also said that they would not permit it, even if the broadcast originated in international waters."

Dr. Smith has said that it is the Third World countries that are vulnerable to aggression through television.

[Smith] "Third World countries may be particularly vulnerable to this. As an American citizen, I am concerned that once a government begins to violate international accords, fragile structures created to regulate broadcasts so any one country cannot interfere with other countries' radio and television broadcasts begin to vanish. It is even worse when a developed country begins to violate them. I am concerned about the danger that this represents for the entire system and structure that had so far controlled such broadcasts."

Exiled Panamanian Official Interviewed in Havana

PA1002224790 Havana International Service in Spanish 0154 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Interview with exiled Panamanian Reynaldo Rivera, former coordinator of the Office of the Secretary General of the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, and secretary general of the Panamanian-Cuban Friendship Institute, by Barbara Bethancourt in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bethancourt] The least we can do is welcome you and ask you to please feel at home. We also want to talk about a few things that interest us, because we know that you were among the first Panamanians, of those who sought asylum at the Cuban Embassy, to be given safe-conduct and to travel to Cuba. Could you please tell us about those first days, when you were harassed, and how you arrived in Havana?

[Rivera] On behalf of myself and all the Panamanians who remain at the residence of Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora and his wife, I would like to thank all the authorities and people of Cuba, the members of the directorate of the Cuban Communist Party, and especially Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for their solidarity, their cooperation, and the assistance they have always given to our people.

Concerning your question, I can specifically tell you that the group of Panamanians who are still being housed at the residence of the Cuban ambassador, including the relatives of General Manuel Antonio Noriega—his wife, three daughters, grandson, and even his son-in-law—plus approximately 22 other Panamanians, including me, who were there from the beginning, all found a great deal of human solidarity, understanding, assistance, and courage with the diplomatic personnel and the personnel you have working at the different commercial enterprises that operate in Panama.

I must tell you that the security of each of us was always at risk because of the desire of... [changes thought] The U.S. troops, following orders from Generals Marc Cisneros and Maxwell Thurman, constantly harassed the mission of your country, as well as those of Nicaragua, Libya, and others. They tried to prevent other Panamanians from seeking asylum at the mission. We were always suspicious that the U.S. imperialists and their Army would try to create a situation of confrontation to try to arrest the people at the mission.

In addition, at one time, they even thought there were other people there directly linked to Gen. Noriega or to the government that was overthrown as a result of the invasion. I want to mention these things because the recognition of what the people of Cuba did for us at that specific moment is something for which we will never be able to demonstrate the gratitude of our people, ourselves, and our families.

[Bethancourt] It is friendship that has always united these two peoples, and at that time, we were able to prove it. Rivera, why did you choose the Cuban Embassy?

[Rivera] In my specific case, I can sincerely tell you that I sought the protection of the Cuban Embassy because of the affection and friendship I feel for the people of Cuba. It is reciprocal, because the people of Cuba have always felt the same for Panamanians in general, including myself. I used to be the ambassador of my country here during 1981-1983. I have close friendships with people here. I have many Cuban friends. I have always felt at home here. Fate and the political situation, especially the decision of a persecuting government that is interested in maintaining its political and military hegemony in my country, such as is the case with the United States, which

invaded my country, made me come here. Cuba was the only country where I felt I could could lessen the sadness of leaving my own country.

I went to the Cuban Embassy because I knew that its people, from the man who performs the most simple tasks in that diplomatic mission, are followers of Jose Marti. I knew that since they are followers of Marti, the doors, not only of their residence, but of their hearts, would be open to me, because I am a citizen who is currently being persecuted in my country. I know those doors will remain open for our people, as you have shown thus far. I know they will remain open for all the nations of the world and for all people who are being persecuted.

[Bethancourt] We will do our best to make you feel at home. Our time is almost up, but I suggest we continue to talk about other matters at another time.

[Rivera] Certainly.

Nicaragua's Borge Speaks in Havana on Socialism

PA1202124890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1203 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Havana, 9 Feb (EFE)—Nicaraguan Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge said here today that "revolutionary ideas will survive," but added that current circumstances in East Europe are humanity's greatest challenge.

Borge, one of the guests at the final event of the 1990 "Casa de las Americas" literary contest, which will judged today in Havana, last night attended the presentation of his book "La Paciente Impaciencia" [Patient Impatience], which won a prize in last year's contest.

"We know there are going to be new and profound changes, and we know who the winners will be," the high-ranking Nicaraguan Government official said.

He said that "no one denies there is a need for revolutionary transformations," but in his mind, "it is something else to say that the Berlin Wall is the end of history and that socialism is finished thanks to the arrogance and the triumphant attitude of the revolution's enemies."

The Nicaraguan minister asked himself: "What will the reactionaries rally around when they end up without enemies after saying that socialism is dead?"

"Those who laugh now," he said, "will cry afterward, when the final judgment of their arrogance is made."

In his opinion, "the gentlemen with the hangman's rope and knife are not aware of the alphabet of historical development laws," while he described as "fainthearted and cowardly" those who abandoned the principles that made a world with a vocation for justice and equality possible.

Tomas Borge called for "placing on combat readiness our ideological reserves" and mankind, which he believes "will not only have to break the impostors' teeth, but will need to dream so that dreams of justice and equality become a reality."

He also referred to the "Casa de las Americas," which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, as the institution that has "exalted" the continent's values, "sought" with infallible instinct the Latin American identity, and "fully complied" with an essential ethical and esthetic mission.

Poet Roberto Fernandez Retamar, president of "Casa de las Americas," and writer Eduardo Heras spoke at Borge's book presentation.

Attending the ceremony were Jorge Risquet, member of the Communist Party Politbureau; Guillermo Garcia, commander of the revolution; and Manuel Pineiro, responsible for the Central Committee's America Department.

30th Anniversary of Cuban-USSR Trade Marked

FL1002035890 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] The 30th anniversary of the beginning of cooperation between the USSR and Cuba was marked today at the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] On behalf of the Soviet comrades, allow me to invite you to the inauguration of the exposition marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of economic relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Cuba. [end recording]

(Victor Moskin), USSR deputy trade representative in Cuba, inaugurated a photography exposition including the most significant moments of bilateral cooperation. Luis Felipe Vazquez, chief of the USSR Section of our party's Central Committee, and USSR trade adviser (Fyodor Korminskiy), as well as Zoilo Marinello, president of the association, attended the event, which ended with a news conference.

Jose Rosado Amador, director of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, said over 80 percent of the credit granted by the USSR to Cuba has been committed in the current five-year period, and that direct ties among all types of enterprises are being developed.

[Begin Amador recording] The date the 30th anniversary of economic and trade relations between the Soviet Union and our country is marked coincides with the 20th anniversary of inauguration of the Cuban-Soviet Intergovernmental Commission, which was created in December 1970. We are developing some 400 goals, and investments of all kinds, including the 74 points the intergovernmental agreement outlines in the economic and technical sector in our country. [end recording]

Answering reporters, (Fyodor Korminskiy) explained that the two countries are now examining in Moscow the protocol for [word indistinct] trade for this year on the volume of bilateral trade. The protocol is scheduled to be signed on 20 February, and represents an increase of trade between Cuba and the USSR.

Commentary Notes National Priority Projects

FL1202193590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The national foodstuffs program outlined by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for this and coming years constitutes a top priority in the nation's efforts. The best organization, efforts, and discipline are needed to ensure successful compliance with the plans that will provide the country with basic consumption goods. Notable efforts are already being made by government and party organizations to obtain high agricultural yields through the application of science and technology.

One of the fundamental measures is the necessary incorporation of additional plots for tuber and vegetable planting. An increase in the production of milk, meat, grains, and fruits also require the attention of all on a priority basis and in a strategic manner.

In making these efforts, the people of Pinar del Rio announced that they intend to surpass their tuber and vegetable production, which amounted to 2.4 quintals last year. This additional production could increase Pinar del Rio's production to over three million quintals. In Guantanamo, an effort is being made to produce over two million quintals of tubers this year. This would be half a million over the total that was harvested by the people of Guantanamo in 1989.

The strategy also includes staggered planting and the use of varieties that grow early, normally, and late in the season to avoid supply gaps.

Construction investments are being conducted jointly with the foodstuffs program. Special attention is being paid to the family doctor program, housing, and other projects for the people's welfare that are basic and necessary. Current national requirements are in place to ensure the strengthening of education, health, new industries, and tourism with efficiency, discipline, and organization, as well as rationally and comprehensively. The construction of socialism should be a viable path of growth and development.

Pedagogy 90 Congress Issues Final Document

FL1202161090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2313 GMT 9 Feb 90

["Text" of final document issued and approved by the participants at Pedagogy 90 Congress in Havana on 9 February—read by Luis Antonio Vigot, deputy dean of the School of Humanities and Education of the Central University of Venezuela—live]

[Text] The final words of Pedagogy 86 still resound in our ears and palpitate in our hearts. Those words summed up the essence of liberator Simon Bolivar's thoughts when he said: Only an intimate and fraternal unity among the children of the new world and an inalterable harmony in the operations carried out by their respective governments will make us formidable before our enemies and respected by the other nations.

Bolivar's thought prevails today, which has been proven by the more than 2,800 professors and teachers from 17 Latin America and Caribbean countries and Spain who participated in this "Pedagogy 90, a Meeting of Teachers for a Better World" congress that met in Havana 6-9 February. In a healthy environment of fraternity, pluralism, broad-mindedness, and democracy, we analyzed and discussed many pedagogic topics and the overall socioeconomic and political challenges our education systems are confronting. The issues broached during this congress, like inspiring a patriotic and Latin American spirit in our children and youths; the society-family-school link; combining school and work in the formation of the child's personality; education at its various levels; qualification of the work force for middle and higher education levels; the training and possibility for improvement of teachers; teaching and learning methods and techniques; school organization; drafting of study plans, history of pedagogy; and the presentation of reports on topics of current interest for teachers, have been very valuable. We have learned from one another, and we worked together in the hope that education will be ensured as a basic human right and that it may be perfected to reaffirm our people's national and cultural identity.

Four years have gone by since our last congress, and many changes have taken place in the international arena, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. Even though the threat of a nuclear holocaust seems to be growing more and more distant and the military dictatorships are practically being swept away, thus opening the path to varied democratic processes throughout the continent, we continue to be constantly threatened by the foreign debt—Damocles' sword—and its ill-fated consequences.

In 1986, when we held our first congress, we were alarmed by the size of the foreign debt. At that time, the debt amounted to $360 billion. Today it amounts to approximately $420 billion and is seriously affecting the continent's economic situation. To this we must add the fact that the basic problems experienced by most of the people—hunger, drug addiction, health, prostitution, and illiteracy, among others—have not been solved. A similar situation is faced by the teachers in our hemisphere. The teachers have experienced cuts in their salaries, thousands have already been fired, there have been cuts in the education budgets, and our children and youth are being completely neglected. These situations

have promoted outbursts of violence like the ones seen in Venezuela and several Argentine cities. However, Venezuela and Argentina have not been the only countries where such outbursts have occurred; I repeat, they are not the only countries where these situations have occurred, and, furthermore, they could repeat themselves.

The dramatic situation experienced by the education sector in our continent makes us more and more dependent; it contributes to technical backwardness, widens the gap between our countries and the more developed countries, and leaves us unprotected against the imperialist voracity currently expressed by President Bush's administration.

As the concerned teachers we should and must be, we must ask ourselves: Why is it that the Latin Americans and Caribbeans have not completely united and all of Europe is currently doing it? Who will worry about our most urgent needs and interests? Fellow Latin American and Caribbean teachers, what are we waiting for? Today more than ever, the words Latin American and Caribbean integration, unity, and solidarity should be on the agenda of rulers and the ruled, especially at this moment when Bolivar's words have become a real, even though bitter, truth. He warned us: The United States seems to be destined by providence to plague America with misery in the name of freedom.

The invasion of Panama that, according to a Red Cross report, resulted in more than 7,000 deaths; the air and sea blockade of the Colombian coast, the deployment of special U.S. troops to several Andean countries, and the attempt to board the Hermann—allow me to pause here; from the Karl Marx Theater, we, the Latin American educators, would like to pay a humble and most sincere tribute to the Cuban sailors [applause]—are aggressions launched with the excuse of fighting drug trafficking and are proof of the heightening of the big stick policy in the relations of the United States with our America—the America of Marti, Juarez, Artigas, Bolivar, Sanmartin, L'Ouverture, and O'Higgins—in other words, our America.

Because we are social communicators, we the teachers must educate our students, friends, and family to make sure these actions are not repeated; that the Salvadoran revolutionary struggle will have everyone's moral support and respect; that Nicaragua will be allowed to complete its electoral process without foreign interference; and that the Esquipulas II agreements are respected and that this may lead to the complete demobilization of the contras so that the homeland of Sandino, the legendary Latin American Cid, can live in peace. [applause]

In the 1989-1990 period, 23 countries will join or continue the democratic cycle in our continent. At the conclusion of their electoral processes, these countries will have once again been confronted with a group of problems and challenges that were not solved by the leaders before them and that most probably will not be solved if the current situation does not change.

In view of the beginning of this new stage, we as educators and social communicators of Latin America and the Caribbean have the right and the obligation to ask: How long will resources be invested in arms to kill the dissatisfied and desperate multitudes, but which are useless in helping to end the reasons which cause that dissatisfaction and that desperateness? When will the abundant resources that are wasted in paying an insatiable foreign debt be diverted to the search of programs for attaining real development in the economic, cultural, health, and other spheres of society in each of our countries? When will our leaders' main concern be the plans and programs for development to ensure that children and youths can study in a healthy and comprehensive environment that holds on to the true culturally autonomous values of Latin American and Caribbean identity? When will Marti's phrase, "To do is the best way to say," become true? Cuba has demonstrated the truth of that phrase. This was shown during the visits to over 100 educational centers of all types; and it is something that no one can deny, regardless of whether or not he is a political or ideological enemy of a socialist revolution, like the one this Cuban nation defends. This is because education is an authentic right of the people. The achievements in primary, mid-level, and higher-level education, as well as the ones attained in special education for the physically or mentally handicapped, are something truly praiseworthy and humanly moving. In Cuba, we have shown that no teacher or professor has to fight for labor demands or for better material conditions for the school because the state takes care of supplying them as well as giving the profession a respectable place in society. This is tangible proof of what can be done when there is political will and the same interests exist between the leaders and their people. What Cuba has achieved constitutes motivation, a guideline, and an aspiration for the rest of the Latin American and Caribbean people.

Nevertheless, it is with concern and rejection that we have seen the U.S. Government's intention to install, against the will of the Cuban people, a television station to provide our people with informational options they lack. Many of the delegates asked during the debate: What informational [as heard] alternatives does Cuba plan to offer the United States? Does the United States plan to export to Cuba the patterns of violence, drug addiction, consumerism, pornography, and selfishness that, through most U.S. programs, reach our Latin American television screens? The intent to install an anti-Cuban television station transcends the limits of the known U.S.-Cuba disagreements over the past 30 years. That is why we make an urgent call to the leaders of the United States so that, for the good of the U.S. people and of our Latin American and Caribbean peoples, they reconsider the chauvinist triumphalism that encourages them today and that they apply to it a quota of realism and moderation that an action such as this would result

in. It is our responsibility as workers in the field of education, as educators of the new Latin American generations, to clarify to public opinion and to the political and cultural authorities of our countries, the vileness of this aggression that violates international agreements and even the UN Charter.

Important agreements have been reached in this far-reaching congress, such as the formation of the Latin American and Caribbean Association for Teachers and the creation of the Reference Center for Special Education, as well as other recommendations and exchanges of experiences during these productive days. And starting today, comrade educators, we begin to prepare for the third meeting of Teachers for a Better World.

Our dearest aspiration is the happiness of our children and youths and to educate them with Marti's belief, which says: Nations that do not know one another must hurry and do so, like those who are going to fight together.

Havana, 9 February, 1990. [applause]

Dominica

Nation To Oppose Dominican Republic in Caricom

FL1302135690 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles warns she will oppose the entry of the Dominican Republic into Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] unless the Dominican Government drops the plans to ship the bananas to Europe. Prime Minister Charles said the Dominican application for Caricom membership will be discussed at a heads of government conference in July. She said the Dominican Government's refusal to change its plan in the face of strong criticism from the Caribbean will influence that debate.

Haiti

Gilles, Theodore React to Prisoner Amnesty

FL0902235690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Interview with Serge Gilles, leader of th Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, and Rene Theodore, leader of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH, by Nancy Roc; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Some of the political class has reacted to the release of the three prisoners arrested on 1 November 1989. Serge Gilles of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, a member of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, believes the release meets one of the conditions the alliance said must be met before it will participate in the coming elections. However, the other conditions remain. Rene Theodore of PUCH says the release is welcome, but not enough of a guarantee that all citizens will be protected. Theodore deplored the lack of a court verdict as well as the arbitrary way in which the three men were arrested. Nancy Roc interviewed both these party leaders.

[Roc] [passage omitted] Do you consider the 7 Februry release of the three men arrested on 1 November 1989 one of the conditions the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti is asking to have met before it participates in the upcoming elections?

[Gilles] Absolutely, it is one of the conditions. However, we say that it is merely the beginning of a response to only one of the points, for we asked that all political prisoners be released, and there are probably still some more in jail. [passage omitted]

[Roc, in Creole] Mr. Theodore, today, 7 February 1990, the three men arrested on 1 November 1989 were released. Many people in Haiti had almost lost hope of seeing these men released. How is the PUCH taking this bit of news?

[Theodore, in Creole] We are pleased but also surprised. Not that we ourselves had lost hope of seeing these citizens released, for we have always clung to the hope of one day seeing justice in Haiti become just, despite the fact that the behavior of the judges involved in this case has been more than questionable! [passage omitted] However, we say we are astonished because the case was, indeed, before the courts, and we were hoping a verdict would be reached leading to the release of these citizens, but which would also serve as a condemnation of the government. A government that arrests four citizens, manhandles them, physically abuses them, and takes them to court on the pretext that they were plotting against national security, planning to assassinate all the officers in the Haitian Army, etc.—well, these sort of things required the courts to investigate the matter.

Now by releasing them, they are supposedly making reparations for arbitrariness. However, they are at the same time committing another arbitrary act, for they did not allow the judiciary to pronounce itself clearly on the case of these citizens, as well as on this government that brought the charges and perhaps even fabricated a plot like this against four Haitian citizens!"

[Roc, in Creole] As head of PUCH, you do not consider their release a sufficient step?

[Theodore, in Creole] We think it is a step, for there has been partial reparation for an act of arbitrariness; however, we don't think this constitutes enough of a guarantee. In Haiti, a principle that is not at all correct has begun to be invoked. Often, citizens are arrested and then, later, the authorities will tell you they are pardoning them, without the citizens' having appeared in court. This has happened several times already. It is as if there were a supreme judge, someone who is above the entire judiciary and all the laws. [passage omitted] We

feel no one should be arrested arbitrarily, and that every time a case comes before the courts, the courts should see the case through to the end, that the courts should free the citizens, that the citizens' honor should be preserved, and that those who subjected the citizens in question to such harm should also have to go before the courts. [passage omitted]

Released Political Prisoner Alleges Torture

FL1202202790 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Six people—among them Radio Cacique journalist Willy Paul— who were participating in an antigovernment demonstration Saturday after a mass held at Christ-Roi Church in the Bourdon section of Port-au-Prince, were arrested and then released after being held for three hours by the Port-au-Prince police. Here is Rothschild Francois Jr.'s report.

[Francois] "Some 500 people both young and old attended the mass of thanksgiving held at Christ-Roi Church Saturday in honor of the political prisoners released 7 February. This mass seemed at moments to constitute a veritable trial of the current regime. All eyes were fastened on the political prisoners arrested 1 November: Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, Marineau Etienne, and Patrick Beauchard. All four were present at the mass. Etienne and Paul were visibly not well. Paul leaned on a crutch throughout the entire mass. The crutch is a result of the physical mistreatment to which he was subjected when arrested.

"This mass of thanks was a veritable demonstration of solidarity with the members of the political opposition who were released, particularly those arrested on 1 November. In his homily, Father Yvon (Massac) closely examined human rights violations in Haiti, calling for a society based on justice in Haiti."

[(Massac), in Creole] "Injustice must retreat. One day, criminals will have to pay. One day, dishonest people who are filling up overseas banks with money [repeats] one day, dishonest people who are filling up overseas banks with money will not be able to go off to enjoy their money peacefully. Lord God, we think your justice will prevail. We have no hatred in our hearts for anyone, but we ask them to respect our rights."

[Francois] "The most moving moment of the mass was when K. Plim, alias Evans Paul, told about the torture to which he and his companions were subjected while under arrest. Paul described scenes of torture to the audience. The audience then chanted slogans hostile to the president of the military government. Paul called for unity among the nation's political forces."

[Paul, in Creole] "I do not need to tell you what kind of martyrdom they put us through. At one point, when I could not take it anymore and lost consciousness, how do you think they brought us back to consciousness? By igniting a lighter right under our nostrils. And they did even worse things.

"However, we confronted them firmly. We were never cowardly. We never asked them to forgive us, because we have no forgiveness to ask of criminals and murderers. [applause]

"Today, we are unwilling to continue to voice empty slogans. We are not willing to just let them take us, abuse us, crush us, and then start the process all over again in three months. Those people must get the punishment they deserve. [applause]

"Now, when they talk about a plot, I guess we are plotting all day long, because our plot consists in the very positions we are taking.

"When they say they will not forgive, we know that it is we who would be in a position to pardon. It is not they who can pardon us. [applause] [break in reception]

"Regarding the people who are doing the killing, once their superior finished talking, we told them: See? The minute he is implicated, he backs off. He says it was not him, that he said not to beat anyone. He says it is you who do the beating and the killing. So, fortunately, we spent three months here. Because we ourselves will always respect everyone's rights, we have evaluated all the reforms that need to be made to the National Penitentiary, so that when you others have to come here, you will not have to live in the conditions in which you have made us live under here. However, what is important today is unity. The people's force lies in its unity. Everyone must...[interrupted by applause and indistinct shouting] everyone, everyone who wants democracy, everyone who wants change, everyone who is against repression, must forget this right versus left thing, now. Forget the Protestants versus Catholics versus practitioners of voodoo thing, now. Let us look only at the interests of Haiti, so we can put some order into things, so we can clean up Haiti! [applause] Thank you very much."

[Francois] "Following the mass, some 100 people organized a brief antigovernment demonstration. Extremely virulent slogans against General Prosper Avril were chanted by the demonstrators, who marched in the Lalue section of Port-au-Prince. The demonstration was dispersed by the police, who made some arrests. Among others, a Radio Cacique colleague, Willy Paul—on the scene covering the demonstration—was arrested. Paul says he was struck when he was put into a police vehicle. Paul, who was later released along with four other people, also says he was arrested in a private home where he had taken refuge when the demonstration was dispersed. The demonstrators were demanding the formation of a civilian government to replace the current government headed by Gen. Prosper Avril."

Officials Express Views on Electoral Calendar

Former Minister Disputes Coalition

FL1202184790 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] During a weekend tour of northeastern Haiti, Francois Latortue of the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti/Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti, who is a former justice minister under the National Government Council and a possible presidential candidate, said he thinks it would be very difficult to revise the electoral calendar so that presidential elections could be held in July, as requested by the leaders of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress. Here is a report from our correspondent Jimmy Prophete in Cap-Haitien.

[Prophete] There does not seem to be unanimity in political circles on the proposals made by the socialist-centrist coalition headed by the Bazin/Gilles/Belizaire triumvirate that wants presidential and legislative elections to be held before elections for Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections [Casec] and municipal elections. [passage omitted] Latortue implied that such a revision of the electoral calendar would not constitute a sine qua non that would allow his party to participate in elections.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Unidentified reporter] I would like to know how you feel about the statement made at the beginning of last week to the effect that presidential elections should be held in July. What do you think about that?

[Latortue] It is up to the council to decide. [passage omitted] I will go along with the council. However, I find it difficult to see how after reaching its decisions and devising an electoral calendar that everyone accepted, the council can now go back on its decisions. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] In your opinion, is the council capable of holding elections on 29 April as announced?

[Latortue] I find the date of 29 April a bit too early. Could they perhaps roll them back to 29 May? However, all that is up to the council to decide.

[Reporter] Mr. Latortue, are you on a motivational tour? Or campaigning?

[Latortue] No, I am not campaigning. I just came here with the intention of motivating. I have come to see how things are going in this area, for we have several offices and committees herel. So, we came to see how things are going, because Casec and municipal elections are to be held soon, as you know. Therefore, I wanted to make sure everything was more or less in order. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Prophete] This is Jimmy Prophete in Cap-Haitien for Radio Metropole.

CEP Member Interviewed

FL1202205490 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Report on an interview with Dr. Jovin, member of the Permanent Electoral Council, CEP, by Louis Seize France; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Announcer] Elections are to be held in 1990. [passage omitted] Elections for deputies will be held in July, the first round of the presidential election is going to be held in October, and the second round will take place in November. [passage omitted] As you know, there is an independent institution that is autonomous regarding the organization of elections: the CEP. This institution published the Electoral Law last week. [passage omitted]

[France] It is the participation of the Haitian people, the candidates, and the government, as well as the seriousness of the CEP that will allow us to attain our objective to hold unfettered, honest, open, and peaceful elections, said CEP member Dr. Jovin in an interview he granted us. Collaboration among those four sectors will allow us to successfully carry out this difficult and delicate mission, despite any problems that could (?be discouraging). However, we are determined to see the electoral process progress. The central offices are almost finished. We have formed the departmental electoral bureaus in eight geographical departments of Haiti.

All that is left to do now is to organize all the elections as provided for in the election calendar, continued Dr. Jovin. [passage omitted] Dr. Jovin said the reason this calendar has been put out and things have gotten this far is because all four sectors accepted it. To modify the calendar like certain political parties are asking would be to betray the rules of the democratic game and violate certain articles of the Electoral Law.

[Begin Jovin recording] For example, take the electoral calendar. As you know, we did not just decide to publish it. There were many pressures; however, we finally managed to reach a consensus that the government, the candidates, and the population all accepted. In addition to the calendar, there is the Electoral Law. In this published electoral law, there are a number of conditions that are set so that the democratic game can be played.

Now, our problem at the CEP is that these requests are in contradiction with the calendar we established in collaboration with both the population and the candidates. At the same time, they cause some problems in connection with certain articles in the Electoral Law itself. Because the problem that could arise is that, if we were to try to make any other decision at present, we would be obliged to apply the same democratic principles that we have always applied: consulting the population and all the other candidates. And you can see where that is going to lead us. We would have to start all over again. [end recording]

[France] Dr. Jovin also said: The type of reaction of certain political leaders and members of the general population have had is attributable to the fact that they do not believe the elections can proceed as we say. But it is not that they have anything in particular against the members of the CEP. [passage omitted] Dr. Jovin said that there must be unity of spirit and of action for the elections to proceed the way they should.

[Begin Jovin recording] There is a key word, and that word is unity. I think that even the political leaders, who are the main actors on the scene...[changes thought] I think that if there were unity among them, there would not be a single obstacle they could not overcome. And regardless of whatever difficulty might be encountered, if all these candidates had this unity of spirit and action, I think the elections would be held, one way or another. Because one of the biggest problems at present is disunity. And this disunity causes a series of problems, with everyone acting separately. However, as you know, every time we all act separately, we are much weaker. I think that if everyone were to get together, they would be much stronger.

[Announcer] Listeners will be able to hear this entire interview 14 February at 1800 over our Electoral Perspective broadcast. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Opinions Voiced on Government Performance

FL0902193590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1830 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Report by Julie Chen]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 9, CANA—Jamaica Prime Minister Michael Manley marked his first year in office February 9, with one minister saying he had done a good job in stabilising the economy and critics saying his government's lethargy had allowed the economy to slip into deep trouble.

Manley's information and culture minister, Dr. Paul Robertson, said the government had done an "excellent job" in stabilising the economy and has enunciated a clear policy to boost foreign exchange earnings. But opposition spokesman on finance Bruce Golding charged that indecisiveness in the early days of the People's National Party [PNP] administration was a major contributor to the economic troubles.

By all accounts, it was a tough year that saw a devaluation of the dollar under a new International Monetary Fund aid package and higher food prices. Real wages have fallen by about eight per cent, according to analysts. The value of the the Jamaican dollar has fallen sharply, from J5.50 dollars to one U.S. dollar, to seven to one and the inflation rate has been pegged at 17.2 per cent.

Professor Carl Stone of the University of the West Indies, whose polls have been highly rated for accuracy, has calculated that the PNP's 40 per cent support slipped to 33 per cent between last May and September.

A challenge facing the government is how to halt heavy spending on imports and encourage increased production. Imports here have been put at U.S. 1.7 billion dollars compared to exports of just about one billion.

Stone, professor of political sociology, thinks that the government is haunted by the legacy of the 1970's. The PNP's socialist experiment of that decade has come to be characterised as chaotic with too much dabbling by a management team that was said to be inept. This, Stone said, accounts for some of the timidity and reluctance in implementing some of the tough measures needed to deal with the economic problems. The government's performance, according to Stone, "has not been very good and has not inspired confidence."

He noted, however, that the PNP leaders began with a weak hand, given the fact that they were out of the government process for a long time and had to reacquaint themselves with the day to day running of government. He said this has been exacerbated by a lack of talent within the ministerial ranks and the civil service as well as the slow pace with which they have taken over the reins of government.

The opposition Jamaica Labour Party's Golding said: "Much of the problem which has been created is due to the lethargy of the government to come to grips with the problem and in the absence of a proper fiscal management." He told CANA this was the gravest error committed by the government in its first year.

"By the time the government got its act together in September, so much damage had been done that what you were into now was damage control.... It was no longer a question of just tuning the economy," he asserted.

In September the government imposed credit controls, devalued the dollar for the first time and suspended a twice weekly foreign exchange auction. Financial analyst John Jackson agrees with Golding's assessment. "If the government had looked at the data, they would have been able to take appropriate measures from early to cool down the economy. We would have been better off today for prompt action taken yesterday," he said.

But Robertson blames most of the difficulties faced last year on "irresponsible" statements by opposition spokesmen which, he said, were designed to reduce confidence in the government's ability to manage the economy. Robertson maintains that the government acted correctly, dismissing as "utter nonsense" suggestions it did not know what it was doing.

"When we came to office, we tried to make the adjustments as gentle as possible. This is not a sign of weakness.... We were seeking to make the situation as bearable as possible through moral persuasion. However, when moral persuasion failed, we instituted some tough measures."

It has not all been tough measures. Deputy Prime Minister P.J. Patterson announced a package of incentives aimed at boosting earnings from tourism, industry, mining, and agriculture. The govenment is also committed to stamping out corruption in the Customs Department where it estimates it loses some 700 million dollars annually.

The bottom line at the end of 1989 was that Jamaica's external debt was U.S. 4.5 billion dollars with 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings going towards debt servicing. The country is now paying back more than it receives in aid from multilateral institutions, to which it owes 42 per cent of its debt.

The net international reserves also declined to minus 95 million U.S. dollars. The precarious foreign exchange situation was not aided by a large outflow of private capital which some financial analysts put at U.S. 200 million dollars between January and September last year.

The government signed a new agreement with the IMF in July. But the country was unable to pass a crucial economic performance test in September and the government was forced to renegotiate a new agreement. This new agreement was announced last January 30 and called for a 7.7 per cent devlaution of the Jamaican dollar. There was a 32.5 percent hike in electricity rates, and further removal of subsidies on basic foods and tighter monetary policies.

The measures were described by some businessmen as milder than anticipated. Delroy Lindsay, executive director of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica (PSOJ), says the government has done well, given the present economic conditions. However, the island's major trade unions have rejected the 12 and a half percent wage guideline set out in the agreement. Whether this will make Manley's second year more difficult remains to be seen.

Trinidad and Tobago

Robinson Warns Avril of Move To Block Aid

FL1202141490 Bridgetown CANA in English 2054 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 9, CANA—Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson on Friday warned Haiti's military leader, Prosper Avril, Trinidad and Tobago would move to block economic aid to the French-speaking state if it did not give certain guarantees of a return to democracy. Robinson listed measures including a return to the already agreed-upon schedule for fresh general elections and a commitment for all political parties to take part which Trinidad and Tobago was waiting for the Haitian leader to give.

He said Trinidad and Tobago was willing to work with "like-minded" governments to initiate and pursue creative ideas to solidify moves towards democratic reforms which were in the pipeline before the imposition of the siege.

Robinson said he was waiting for "unambiguous" pronouncements from Avril on a return to the agreed timetable for free and fair elections, respect for human rights at all levels, and provision of adequate security to fair elections following the November 1987 abortion of polls due to violence. Robinson said his government also awaited word of adherence to Haiti's Constitution including an undertaking that Avril would not remain in power after elections, a commitment that all political parties would be allowed to take part unhindered in the political process, restoration of press freedom in Haiti, guarantees of freedom of speech, and punitive action for those who had beaten and arrested opposition and human rights leaders.

Listing the sort of support Trinidad and Tobago had given Haiti in its bid for acceptance by the Caribbean Community and in larger groups, Robinson said: "Trinidad and Tobago could hardly be expected to continue the kind of support for Haiti we have given in the past in the absence of a commitment by General Avril to the measures I have outlined."

"Moreover, until there is sufficient evidence of a return in Haiti to the path of democratic reform, Trinidad and Tobago would feel constrained to exert its influence in Caricom, the OAS (Organisation of American States), and wider international fora to apply economic pressures, including the prevention of allocation of funds for economic programmes," Robinson told the House of Representatives.

Robinson's statement follows calls by both the Caribbean Conferenc of Churches and the local press for the Robinson administration to use its influence in Caricom to bring about some strong joint Caricom initiative to deal with the recent events in Haiti. Many of the "demands" Robinson announced on Friday were similiar to requests taken to Robinson by Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), general secretary, Reverend Allan Kirton from various groups in Haiti following imposition of the siege.

Robinson recited Trinidad and Tobago's past efforts in helping Haiti move from isolation. In this, he listed Port of Spain's part in a Caricom foreign ministers' visit to Port-au-Prince, Trinidad's efforts to promote Haiti's influence to get Haiti into the Lome Four Convention, and Haiti's observer status on some Caricom committees.

"These efforts on our part have shown that we are prepared to promote engagement rather than the isolation of Haiti," Robinson said. He added that Port of Spain had welcomed Avril's January 30 statement on the lifting of the state of siege. Haiti was, however, diverted

from the proposed plan to work towards elections as Avril instead imposed a state of siege and deported opposition leaders.

Robinson invited and met on Monday with Kirton to get a list of conditions democratic groups in Haiti wanted to see in place.

Organizations Mount Peaceful Protest of Program

FL1202175790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1350 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Report by Debra Ransome]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 12, CANA—A group of 29 Trinidad and Tobago organisations, including trade unions, opposition political parties, and church groups, meet on Wednesday to formalise a network which will use "peaceful protest" against the government's economic adjustment programme. Transport and Industrial Workers Union (TIWU) President Albert Aberdeen described the proposed activities as "the basis for national action and sustained national action".

Church representatives who joined the group said their involvement came about as an attempt to stave off growing hardships they claimed their parishioners were facing in the once oil-rich republic. "This is affecting people. If that is politics, yes, then I'm involved in politics," said outspoken Anglican priest, Canon Knolly Clarke.

The various bodies held an initial meeting last Thursday in San Fernando, south Trinidad, which they dubbed a "summit of leaders" to thrash out ways to deal with their grouse over the impact of economic adjustment plans here. The main decision was the issuing of a list of demands the "summit" wants the government to implement or face a series of peaceful protests.

The meeting also set up a 20-member interim committee to find a name for the new body and put together a plan of action. However, the team has already decided to stage a picket demonstration outside the parliament building, the Red House, next Friday.

The protest will follow the sending of the 16 resolutions to Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, opposition leader, Patrick Manning, and all members of the House of Representatives. The demands include a call for the repealing of proposed changes to the Alien Landholdings Act—said in its present state to be a hindrance to foreign investment—and a moratorium on public sector retrenchments.

The group wants the withdrawal of a new value added tax (VAT), a price freeze, and a halt to privatisation programmes. It also wants the restoration of full salaries for public servants, a job creation programme, improvements in the country's much-lambasted health service, a filling of vacancies in the teaching service, a guarantee of no more devaluations of the local dollar, and a halt to changes being implemented under a new World Bank loan.

The group, which included unions from the sugar and oil belts, also called for a dismantling of a controversial new company in the sugar industry set up to oversee diversification from sugar production and the reinstatement of retrenched workers in the state bus company.

In March 1989, trade unions came together to stage a nationwide work boycott which they called a "day of resistance" but failed to plan any follow-up action as splits in the labour movement reappeared. This time around, trade union leaders in the new group assured reporters at a Friday news conference, they would achieve more sustained action as a result of the extended grouping.

El Salvador

Social Christians View Proposal to U.S. Congress

PA1202223190 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] The leadership of the Social Christian People's Movement [MPSC] today disclosed the peace proposal submitted by Ruben Zamora to a U.S. Congress subcommittee on 6 February. According to the MPSC leaders, the proposal contains three fundamental points. The first is that the mediation effort by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar should take place between February and March, leading up to a double proposal. The goal is to establish procedures for the negotiations and a document on achieving peace in El Salvador. In its second point, the MPSC ask that the negotiation take place between April and June.

[Begin Zamora recording] This negotiation must involve all Salvadoran forces committed to peace that want to contribute solutions toward reaching it. In this respect, the government, the Armed Forces, the opposition political parties, the Permanent Committee for the National Dialogue, and diverse business sectors must participate in the negotiation process. Once the four-month negotiation period ends, in August, we would start implementing all the agreements that have been made, so that in March 1991, we may have new elections in a new situation of peace with the full participation of all the country's political and social forces. [end recording]

Ruben Zamora's proposal to the U.S. Congress also includes making U.S. aid to the El Salvador contingent upon three basic elements:

[Begin Zamora recording] First, respect for human rights in El Salvador. Second, the existence in the country of sufficient maneuvering room for opposition political parties and our country's social organizations. Third, the government must implement a sincere and effective policy of negotiation within that period. [end recording]

At the news conference, the MPSC leaders voiced their concern about the possible extension of the state of siege, as they feel the measure does not affect the FMLN [Farbundo Marti National Liberation Front], but the people, the political opposition, and mass groups. They also felt that extending the state of siege would impose serious constraints on the political opposition during the legislative and municipal elections scheduled for March 1991.

Peasant-Worker Unity Proposes Peace Plan

PA1302010590 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 27

[Text] UNOC [National Peasant-Worker Unity] delivered a document to the Legislative Assembly outlining actions that the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] should take to bring definite resolution to the armed conflict.

In the document, delivered yesterday to the Legislative Assembly president, UNOC criticizes the lack of sincerity on the part of both sides in the dialogue, and recommends that the UN Secretary General, the OAS Secretary General, and a Catholic Church representative act as mediators at the next meeting.

Among the recommendations for the dialogue, UNOC asks the FMLN to suspend all types of sabotage against the nation's economic structure, and it asks the government to suspend the state of seige and allow crippled FMLN fighters to leave the country.

In this context, UNOC asks the government and the FMLN for a military and political truce, which would permit the creation of a peaceful atmosphere to facilitate the dialogue and establish the basis of agreement for a solution to the conflict.

As possible alternatives to the solution, UNOC suggests the suspension of Soviet bloc military aid to FMLN and any other aid to the Salvadoran Government.

In the military field, UNOC asks that the Armed Forces withdraw to their barracks and the FMLN extremists remain in their camps—undertakings that would be supervised by peace forces and the United Nations.

UN intervention should guarantee the cease-fire, the troops' withdrawal to their barracks, the FMLN extremists' encampment, and—as a cooperation measure—UN peace-keeping troops would take an inventory of weapons on both sides to guarantee that the clandestine flow of arms to the FMLN is not increased. Among the political suggestions, UNOC proposes legalization of the FMLN as a politcal party, for which the government must guarantee the personal safety of members of the FMLN during the electoral process.

UNOC suggests that the FMLN turn over its weapons once it is registered as a political party. Likewise, it believes that the Armed Forces should reduce the number of members on active duty, leaving just enough troops to comply with the military's constitutional mission.

Military Officer Wants No Concessions to FMLN

PA1202212590 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 5 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] A high-ranking military officer has said that no concessions should be made to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in future peace talks until it "proves that it is not playing with the Salvadoran people's expectations."

Colonel Mauricio Vargas, commander of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, one of the most important in the nation, has said that one of the highest priorities is to demand that the FMLN stop exploiting concepts of peace with Marxist language.

The high-ranking military officer said: "To present a peace plan granting concessions is not a peace process, but rather a war process, because the more one gives the more one demands."

Vargas believes that "all Salvadorans should participate in the process and not think that the longed-for peace is solely the task of the government and the Armed Forces. It is everyone's task, he added.

"We should obtain peace within the framework of respect for the nation's institutions and within its legal framework," he added.

Salvadorans must be aware that everyone has to contribute his quota of sacrifice, some more than others; but it must be a sacrifice consistent with national objectives and interests, he stressed.

Vargas emphasized that the FMLN terrorists have been talking about peace since 10 January 1981; they have even put down their weapons, taken off their uniforms and donned suits and ties to participate in the dialogues. However, they revealed their intentions on 11 November when they launched a second offensive to seize power by force."

* Colonel Says Armed Forces Are United

32480235A San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 20 Jan 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Colonel Francisco Elena Fuentes, commander of the First Infantry Brigade, denied reports that divisions exist within the Armed Forces as a result of the prosecution of members of the military responsible for the murder of the Jesuits. He also denied rumors of a coup.

"We are an organized, professional institution, and we are united," said the military leader. Referring to the arrest of Colonel Alfredo Benavides and other members of the military, he said, "my position is that the investigation is under way and it is necessary to wait for the results."

He added that if the investigations have gone as far as these arrests this has to be accepted and "we are going to wait and see what the judiciary will do with the statements of the accused; it is our laws and the judicial system which will decide."

With respect to President Cristiani's position in the case of Colonel Elena Fuentes [as published], he said the government "must do what it has to do," and he said this is part of its job. He denied that there are plans for a coup, and he affirmed that such rumors were made known by the press.

Asked about a possible self-purge of the Army, the military official said this is a term used by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and the Armed Forces is not in the process of purging itself." We have a promotion system for this purpose which tells us how far we can go." [quotations marks as published]

Finally, regarding a possible conspiracy against the government, Elena Fuentes said that if Dr. Calderon Sol has proof then he should present it. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Deny Bombing Settlements

PA1202204590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1733 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Armed Forces denied today that their planes had bombed a refugee camp and civilian settlements in the departments of Chalatenango and Morazan, located north and northeast of San Salvador, as religious sources had reported yesterday.

A communique released by the Armed Forces states that five persons, including four minors, were killed, not as a result of the bombings, "but as a result of the clashes" between soldiers and guerrillas at the "Corral de las Piedras" refugee camp in Chalatenango Department.

The Armed Forces accused the guerrillas of firing rockets "that hit several houses," and it reported that a soldier and six guerrillas were killed in the clashes, which took place 0600-1400.

However, Chalatenango Bishop Eduardo Alas told the media today that five people were killed and at least 14 civilians were wounded when the camp was attacked from the air.

"According to the entire community," Alas said, "a rocket or a grenade-type device fell on one of the houses with many people inside, including children. I saw the mutilated bodies of the children and holes in the roof. There was a lot of machine-gun fire."

Moreover, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) condemned the "cowardly attack" on the refugee homes, which, he said, were "highly visible and identified as civilian housing."

"This incident shows a total lack of commitment by the Armed Forces to reach a negotiated solution, and it reaffirms the need to maintain the armed struggle and to use military power to reach a negotiated solution so human rights are respected," the FMLN said in a communique released today.

The FMLN also condemned an alleged bombing of the town of Cacaopera, in Morazan Department, which the Armed Forces has denied.

According to the guerrillas, a woman was wounded and a sugar cane harvest was destroyed by the bombs, but according to Colonel Mauricio Vargas, military chief of the region, "there was no bombing, but clashes with a group of guerrillas with the support of helicopters."

The military chief promised, however, to carry out the "pertinent investigations to learn what happened in the region."

Rebel Radio Reports January Military Actions

PA1002171990 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Radio Venceremos presents its January military balance:

During the month of January, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] inflicted 532 casualties on the Armed Forces. These casualties include nine officers and a pilot. The casualties also include 22 noncommissioned officers. The FMLN took one prisoner.

Radio Venceremos has been informed that the fighters Gerardo, Gemita, and Esteban in Nuevo Cuscatlan, and Beto in Guazapa, died in the month of January.

The FMLN damaged 10 Salvadoran Air Force helicopters carrying out operations, and one plane crashed in Morazan.

There were 17 road ambushes. Two military trucks were destroyed, and the FMLN seized 14 rifles, one M-79 grenade launcher, seven LAW's, 39 grenades, 34 knapsacks, and 13,500 rounds.

Sabotage operations on the war economy:

The FMLN sabotaged the San Ramon Bridge, Izalco Municipality, on the San Salvador-Sonsonate highway, thus extending our operations in the eastern region with increasing intensity.

FMLN units also sabotaged a vegetable oil storage tank and a rice cutting tractor in El Martillo Cooperative. The FMLN also did sabotage work on the Chaparrastique Sugar Mill and the San Miguel Detergents Factory, which produced losses amounting to 600,000 colones. These two installations are near the 3d Brigade barracks.

In San Salvador, the FMLN sabotaged two installations of [words indistinct] and the Centro de Gobierno gas station, in the midst of 1st Infantry Brigade forces. FMLN units also attacked a military post in El Salamo, Santa Ana.

In January, 226 electric towers and poles were sabotaged. This produced losses amounting to 2,226,000 colones by the Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission. This can be added to the millions that the collapsing economic plan of the Nationalist Republican Alliance has already suffered in the form of indirect losses.

In January, urban forces in Santa Tecla, Soyapango, and Mejicanos were active. Actions were also carried out in the outskirts of San Salvador against the 1st Brigade and the Atlacatl and the Bracamonte Battalions. Pressure on the (Cepipol) installations continues. In Guazapa, the Belloso Battalion and the 1st Brigade suffered dozens of casualties and the FMLN seized arms and damaged four aircraft.

The 4th Infantry Brigade and 1st Military Detachment were defeated in Chalatenango. By the way, today the enemy suffered serious blows there.

In Rancho Quemado and Santa Lucia, Cabanas Department, enemy forces were harassed. The Arce Battalion was harassed in Chapeltique, and the 5th Brigade was harassed in San Felipe, San Vicente Department.

We ambushed the 2d Brigade in Ciudad Arce, La Libertad Department, and we maintained our presence on the road to Santa Ana. We also intensified our activities against the 6th Brigade in Santa Elena, Usulutan. We intensified our operations in the northeastern region—in Ciudad Barrios, Chapeltique, San Simon, San Isidro, Cacaopera, Sesori, and Osicala. We also harassed the 3d Infantry Brigade in Uluazapa, San Miguel.

The month of January began with former Air Force Commander General Rafael Bustillo admitting that the Armed Forces would not have survived the people's November offensive if they had not bombed San Salvador neighborhoods.

The month ended with changes in the military structures. The changes involve elements in the Armed Forces staff, brigades, and repressive bodies and mirror the contradictions that exist within the Armed Forces.

At the end of the month, the Armed Forces High Command announced that it would carry out offensive operations at the beginning of February. The defensive position of the Armed Forces make evident its true moral condition, as well as the strength of its adversary.

The Armed Forces Press Committee's January war reports made evident that the war theater has moved to urban and suburban areas, where the Army has concentrated 80 percent of its forces.

To the enemy casualties in January we have to add Colonel Benavides, director of the Military Academy—the Armed Forces' alma mater and that of three other officers who committed the Central American University massacre. The masterminds of the massacre, however, are still in the High Command. For how long?

Guatemala

Two Labor Union Members Tortured, Killed

PA1202212990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2028 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The bodies of two Guatemalan labor leaders, who had been tortured and to whom the coup de grace had been administered, were found yesterday in an isolated sector of Mixco, 17 km south from Guatemala City, union sources reported today.

Spokesmen of the Coca-Cola labor union, who asked not to be identified, told ACAN-EFE today that brothers Carlos and Tirone Sagastume were abducted while on their way home on 10 February.

The sources said that Carlos worked in the sales department, while Tirone worked in the company warehouse. The two were union members.

The two bodies bore many gunshot wounds and the coup de grace had been administered to them. The sources, who do not know why the brothers were killed, also said the victims had been tortured.

Honduras

Lozano Says Palmerola To Become Civilian Airport

PA1202183090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1653 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Roberto Martinez Lozano, one of the three vice presidents of Honduras, has stated that the Palmerola military base—shared by U.S. and Honduran troops—"will become the new civilian international airport" of this Central American country.

In a public ceremony held on 11 February in Comayagua, 86 km north of Tegucigalpa, Martinez Lozano said that to turn Palmerola into a civilian airport "is advisable for all of us who live in Honduras."

Martinez Lozano emphasized that "the new Honduran Government is looking forward to transferring the international airport from Tegucigalpa to Palmerola soon, very soon."

Palmerola, located five km from Comayagua, is a base shared by 1,200 U.S. troops, who rotate every six months, and the Honduran military aviation school.

As of 1983 the Pentagon has invested over $40 million in the base in various construction projects that include an electronic intelligence complex and a landing strip over 3,500 meters long.

Last week government and opposition political circles began discussing the idea of using the Palmerola installations to replace the old Tegucigalpa airport, whose very short landing strip and nearby mountains make it one of the most dangerous airports in Honduras.

The fact that the government has no funds to build a new airport, which would cost approximately $200 million, and the lack of an adequate geographic location in the capital city have turned Palmerola into a feasible option from both a financial and technical point of view.

Unofficial circles close to the Rafael Leonardo Callejas government are considering the possibility that the civilians and military could share the Palmerola landing strip. However, this is a decision that would require the consensus of the Armed Forces and the United States.

Minister Says Endara Government To Be Recognized

PA1302041190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2146 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Feb (DPA)—Honduras will recognize the new Panamanian Government headed by Guillermo Endara and has requested that government's approval for the appointment of its new ambassador.

The announcement was made today at noon (local time) by Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata during his first news conference. The name of the new ambassador, however, was not announced.

Carias Zapata said Honduras has maintained a low-level diplomatic mission in Panama since it withdrew its ambassador, Colonel Rigoberto Regalado Lara, early in 1989. Regalado Lara had been arrested in Miami for drug trafficking.

The Foreign Minister justified the decision to send an ambassador to Panama by pointing out that "Endara's government represents the people," and by noting that Endara had won the May elections. The political deterioration that followed lead to the U.S. invasion of Panama. Carias Zapata said the withdrawal of the U.S. troops is expected, although he did not specify whether this was a condition for sending the ambassador to Panama.

Callejas Views Securing Financial Credibility

PA1302041390 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said on 2 February that he favors an agreement with the IMF that would allow Honduras to regain its financial credibility on an international level.

The president made reference to a U.S. proposal that calls for the IMF to "twist arms" and exert pressure in an attempt to get debtor countries to bring their payments up to date.

According to Callejas, "when a country is ineligible for financing and fails to comply with the statutes of international organizations, it becomes subject to the mandates of those organizations. That is why we will search quickly for the methods that will once again make Honduras a country with international financial credibility."

Because Honduras has been declared ineligible for new loans by the IMF, it has been "put in a precarious situation regarding international financing," Callejas added.

Callejas Calls for 'Concerted National Effort'

PA1002002590 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Honduran President Leonardo Callejas yesterday visited the Cultural Center in San Pedro Sula, where he gave a speech on the concerted national effort. Present at

the cultural center were Mexico's commerce and industry secretary, and Mexican business and labor leaders. President Callejas spoke to his audience, which also included Honduran business and labor leaders, about Mexico's concerted effort.

[Begin Callejas recording] I am with you at this dark moment. We are in the dark, and if we do not find something to shed light on our path to a concerted national effort, we will never see our way out of the economic and social darkness that we face.

I must point out how truly important it is for us Hondurans to achieve common goals. Important decisions must be made regarding a variety of issues in Honduras. We are all interested in setting goals for the overall improvement of Hondurans, but Hondurans also want to look after their personal interests. However, nothing will be accomplished by imposing the government's decisions or making isolated decisions.

I have been in office for exactly nine days. I wanted this meeting to be held here in San Pedro Sula, the business capital, because of the city's leading role in Honduran life. My actions cannot be isolated. We all believe we are right about economic issues, but no group—either workers, businessmen, nor the government—can be right if decisions are not made jointly, because the interests of one group affect the interests of the others, because what benefits one group does not necessarily benefit the others, and because we Hondurans must learn to make joint efforts to achieve national goals, not the goals of any union, group, sector, or the government.

There are decisions that we would all like to see made right away. However, I must establish my government's priorities and the goals that we must meet within the next four years. The first priority, the one without which I feel I cannot act, is the joint resolve of all Honduras. I have defined this as a concerted national effort. Without this, the implementation of any correct decision I may make will not be viable.

I have my opinions regarding economic issues, just as the labor and business sectors have theirs, and these opinions are not necessarily alike. I would like to propose here in San Pedro Sula today that we execute our first act of national resolve by establishing effective dialogue mechanisms and by seeking the path of common interests.

Perfection is never achieved in politics and public administration, but with a consensus the nation's biggest commitments will be fulfilled. Honduras has enormous problems, but this is not the appropriate time to discuss them. Anyone here who is unaware of Honduras' problems has not examined his conscience. All of us know what is happening in Honduras, and we all believe that we have effective solutions for those problems. However, this is not the way we must do things.

I have come here today to ask you to join me in the process of returning to the path of concerted effort in Honduras. This is the basic goal of the government I am honored to preside over. We must establish mechanisms that will allow us to achieve what is best for the majority of Hondurans in the short, medium, and long-term. This will obviously require short-term decisions, and we must sit down and establish appropriate mechanisms. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Comments on Current Issues

PA1202201990 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Feb 90 p 24

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata said yesterday that the contras will be repatriated to Nicaragua very soon. He also described Nicaragua's request to intervene in the border dispute between Honduras and El Salvador as "inappropriate."

In a news conference, the foreign minister said the new government will undertake "positive changes" in foreign policy, and in particular it will strengthen the peace agreements signed by the Central American presidents and fully defend Honduras' territorial rights.

The regional peace process will be strengthened because the Esquipulas II agreement and the subsequent Tela, Costa del Sol, and San Isidro de Coronado agreements are the foundations to achieve this.

In this way, he added, there will be a halt to the threats of war, civil strife, and breaks in diplomatic relations between neighboring countries.

Carias Zapata recalled that in 1986 and 1988 peace was endangered when Honduras suffered invasions by the Nicaraguan Army.

He said the tension in recent years has affected Honduran foreign policy, but added that he is confident that the many disagreements will be overcome with everyone's effort.

Regarding the demobilization of the Nicaraguan combatants with their families, he disclosed that his ministry is carrying out consultations with the Sandinist authorities, the International Commission of Support and Verification, CIAV, and other institutions.

These consultations will conclude at the end of the month, and then the date for the demobilization and repatriation of the Nicaraguans will be decided. He said there must be a good infrastructure in Nicaragua to receive them and to allow them to be reincorporated into society.

That country needs reconciliation, and the next elections should culminate in a satisfactory way for the people, the Honduran foreign minister commented.

"We do not want to interfere in Nicaragua's domestic affairs when we refer to those problems, but the election process is part of the peace agreement and efforts must be made, within the limits of mutual respect, to bring about a positive culmination of that process," he stressed.

It must be considered that the contras are ready to be repatriated, and this will be decided very soon, he added.

Carias Zapata reiterated that the presidents do not want armed confrontations, adding that the internal conflicts in Nicaragua and El Salvador can be solved through dialogue and not through weapons.

The foreign minister said: I suggest to the Salvadoran guerrillas, the contras, and the involved governments that they hold talks and not wage an armed struggle. Honduras is willing to support any rapprochement among the sectors in conflict to halt the bloodshed.

As a result of the reduction in U.S. economic aid, Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas, presidential designate Jacobo Hernandez, and several National Party deputies have said the military treaties with the United States should be reviewed.

The foreign minister said he does not agree with the aid reduction because it cuts the aid for the health sector and for the construction of roads.

However, the foreign minister said they have not yet reached the extreme of "reviewing" the treaties, a process that involves legal steps to change the texts or negotiate new agreements.

He explained that there is currently an "evaluation" of military and security relations with the United States, which is of interest to both countries.

He mentioned the idea of U.S. Ambassador Cresencio Arcos concerning the installation of a permanent military base in Honduras, which would receive a permanet budget allocation.

Asked if he would agree with the installation of such a permanent base, Carias Zapata said he had no comment because this possibility must first be studied.

He said one must not forget that as long as the internal political situation and relations with Nicaragua are not improved, and as long as there are no negotiations on the level of armaments and troops in Central America, Honduras cannot lower its levels of defense because it must protect its borders and provide peace for its people.

Concerning the reduction in U.S. aid, the foreign minister said the reaction in Honduras has been one of concern, and that for this reason he will get in touch with officials in Washington regarding the need to maintain the aid.

Carias Zapata said he does not know when General Arnulfo Cantarero, chief of the Armed Forces, will travel to the United States in search of aid, but he confirmed that the Foreign Ministry will coordinate the visit.

The minister stressed that the Commission of Sovereignty and Borders will continue to contribute its utmost efforts to defend Honduras' territorial rights, especially regarding the border dispute with El Salvador, which is being heard at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Regarding this problem, the oral hearing on Nicaragua's request to intervene in the case might take place in April and the proceedings on the border dispute will resume in September.

The foreign minister said Nicaragua asked the court to permit it to intervene in the case, a decision the court will be making soon.

Nicaragua argued that as a country with a coast on the Gulf of Fonseca, it has a right to intervene in the case. Honduras and El Salvador want a definition of their sea border on the Gulf of Fonseca and Pacific Ocean.

Honduras, Carias Zapata said, does not accept that a third country with coasts on the Gulf of Fonseca has a right to intervene, adding that Nicaragua is aware of the briefs of the two involved nations.

In addition, he said, Nicaragua must be aware that the arguments presented by Honduras do not in any way affect the maritime areas in which Nicaragua has rights. That is why the request is inappropriate, he said.

The minister said the changes in foreign policy will be seen as time passes, because each administration ushers in a new phase. He said the current government will promote negotiation and not armed confrontations.

The official said the work of the ambassadors and the diplomatic and consular personnel abroad has begun to be evaluated to make the necessary changes.

He said that in view of the austerity policy, efforts will be centered on seeking more professionalism and a better representation of Honduran society in the foreign service.

However, he explained that this does not mean that there are diplomatic missions that are useless or that embassies will be closed. Instead, it means that personnel will be reduced and human and financial resources will be concentrated wherever necessary.

Carias Zapata said he will meet with Central Bank and Finance Ministry officials in the next few days to rationalize the use of foreign exchange, so as to use only what is necessary and not affect other areas of public administration.

He said he is interested in resuming the contacts that existed in the past between Honduras and the Soviet Union, but he did not mention any specific date.

The news conference was attended by Foreign Ministry spokesman Eugenio Castro Claramunt, whom Carias Zapata confirmed in the post and described as a true professional.

The following officials were also at the news conference: Jaime Guell Bogran, deputy foreign minister; Mario Fortin, director of diplomatic protocol; Roberto Florez Bermudez, international organizations adviser; Pablo

Ulises Gomez, in charge of economic affairs; Mario Diaz Bustamante, foreign policy director; and Rolando Moya Posas, senior officer.

Finance Minister Comments on Budget, IMF Visit

PA1302020790 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Report on interview with Finance and Public Credit Minister Dr. Benjamin Villanueva by Jose Danilo Izaguirre; recorded—date and place not given]

[Text] [Announcer] Asked if he has already drafted the plan to be presented to international financial organizations, Finance and Public Credit Minister Benjamin Villanueva said:

[Villanueva] Our plan is ready, however we do not believe it is timely to present it to the IMF. The IMF mission that will arrive on 12 February is of a rather technical nature. We will analyze some statistics that deal with the budget, fiscal deficit, international monetary reserves, and the expansion of credits, which are figures the IMF technicians use to draft a possible agreement. This is not a negotiation mission. Therefore, we do not have to present our plan to this mission. We will present our plan when we begin negotiations to reach an agreement with the IMF.

[Izaguirre] Who heads this delegation?

[Villanueva] About 12 people are coming. I am not sure if Mr. Williams, the IMF Representative for Honduras, is heading the mission, but I believe he is. Mr. [name indistinct] from the World Bank will be arriving on 17 February. In addition, Mr. Pinto, who is the World Bank executive director for Central America, Panama, Spain, and Portugal will also be coming.

[Izaguirre] Mr. Villanueva, will these technicians who are coming to Honduras help draft the plan or is the plan already drafted?

[Villanueva] No, our plan is already drafted. It is necessary to separate two issues. One is the president's political decision regarding the direction he wants to point the economy to reorganize it and to overcome the chaotic situation the country is facing. Our plan regarding that issue is almost finished. The other issue is a plan to reach an agreement with the IMF, which requires establishing certain economic variables such as expansion of credits, the degree of allowable currency fluctuation, the possibilities of inflation, and the level of Honduras' net international reserves. We need to work on all these matters, which are quite technical economic matters. They are two different issues.

[Izaguirre] When do you plan to sign the letter of intent between Honduras and the IMF?

[Villanueva] If everything goes as planned, I believe our goal will be to try to reach an agreement with the IMF within a period not longer than 3 months.

[Izaguirre] The government expects, rather the people expect, that the 1990 budget will be approved, because we understand that the government is working on the proposed budget. Is the budget ready?

[Villanueva] We have established an office in which about 30 budget technicians are working to come up with the budgets for each ministry. Therefore, we estimate we will have the central government budget ready in about five days. We estimate that the budget of autonomous and decentralized institutions will be ready in 15-20 days. We hope the consolidated budget of the central government and decentralized institutions will be ready to be submitted to the National Congress by late March.

[Izaguirre] How much will the general budget be reduced in 1990?

[Villanueva] Our goal is to cut 10 percent of the 1989 budget.

[Izaguirre] Does this include the Armed Forces budget?

[Villanueva] Yes.

[Izaguirre] How much will that 10 percent amount to? Give us an estimate.

[Villanueva] Well, 10 percent of 2.4 billion [currency not specified] would be 240 million. However, as you are aware, we have a significant number of commitments to raise salaries and create new jobs; the actual reduction might be 100 million.

[Izaguirre] Mr. Villanueva, will the 74 million lempiras that Mr. Callejas mentioned had been added by the previous administration—which will be sent to the National Congress for their consideration—have to be eliminated?

[Villanueva] We will eliminate everything that is illegal. We are currently conducting a civil service audit to ascertain what salary increases and what new jobs have been illegal, meaning that they were not based on a legislative decree. We have issued the corresponding decree so it is not included in the normal budget being prepared for 1990.

[Izaguirre] Many opinions have been given as to whether or not the Armed Forces budget should be reduced. Have you talked with the Armed Forces to discuss the problem?

[Villanueva] We have talked on the level of the reduction. In other words, I am talking about a 10 percent reduction in overall expenses. We have not mentioned...

[Izaguirre, interrupts] Including the Armed Forces?

[Villanueva] Including the Armed Forces, but this does not mean a 10 percent reduction of the Armed Forces' budget. I mean an overall 10 percent reduction. Then we will discuss with each sector where this reduction will be implemented. This means there could be a five percent, 15 percent, or one percent reduction in each specific

case. It all depends on the priorities we detect when we discuss the issue with each ministry.

Nicaragua

Ortega Meets Workers, Raises Minimum Tax Level

PA1202223390 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] During a meeting with Nicaraguan agricultural and industrial workers, President Daniel Ortega asserted that the country's economy will improve with the efforts of workers and the government. President Ortega announced that the government will raise the minimum level for income tax payment to 6 million cordobas. For their part, the country's agricultural and industrial workers guaranteed that their vote will be for President Ortega.

Ortega's meeting with the workers turned into a "Face the People" program, in which workers expressed their achievements and problems, including the lack of supplies and medicine in their work centers and the income tax payment problem, which affects workers who earn 2 million cordobas.

In response to the workers' comments, President Ortega stressed the workers' efforts in trying to improve the country's economy.

[Begin Ortega recording] Workers are a basic, key, and strategic force in society and production. They must be taken into account. We must ensure justice for workers economically and socially speaking. [end recording]

As for the income tax problem, Ortega announced that, as of February, the government will raise the minimum level for income tax payment.

[Begin Ortega recording] We have decided to raise the minimum level for income tax payments as of February. We will raise it to 6 million cordobas. [applause] In other words, workers who earn less than 6 million cordobas will not pay IR [Income Tax], [applause] and workers who earn more than 6 million cordobas will have to pay IR. [end recording]

Finally, President Ortega urged workers to continue to struggle for a fairer distribution of wealth in Nicaragua. On 10 February, President Ortega will meet with peasant leaders at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua.

Unofficial U.S. Observer Delegation Arrives

PA1202152190 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Feb 90 p 4

[Text] Members of a bicameral U.S. delegation, sent to observe the Nicaraguan elections through the Observer Delegation of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government headed by former President Jimmy Carter, began to arrive on their own in Nicaragua on 8 February.

The following individuals arrived on 8 February as part of the sixth delegation of the "Carter Group," which will observe the final phase of the electoral process: Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd, former Nevada Governor Michael O'Callaghan, and Ambler Moss, former U.S. ambassador to Panama.

Former Belizean Prime Minister George Price and former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, members of the same delegation, also arrived, but on different flights.

The inclusion of the observers from the U.S. Congress in the delegation of the "Carter Group" is the result of the initiative of the former president, who personally invited members of the bicameral delegation after the Nicaraguan Government prohibited an official mission from entering the country until the United States lifts its embargo and ends its war policy against Nicaragua.

Senator Dodd and the rest of his group arrived on private flights early in the afternoon, and according to the protocol services of the Sandino Airport, they requested that no access be granted to the foreign and local journalists who went to the airport to interview the delegation, particularly about the nature of the visit.

The visitors were met at the airport by Jennifer McCoy, an official of the "Carter Group," as well as Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry officials. A press source disclosed that Senator Dodd will hold a news conference at the end of his visit.

Meets With FSLN's Arce

PA1202172890 Managua Sistema Sandinista de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Former Belizean Prime Minister George Price, former Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, and U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd have reaffirmed their policy of nonintervention and self-determination during a meeting with Commander Bayardo Arce.

During the meeting, Commander Bayardo Arce said the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] appreciates the observation work being conducted by the United Nations, the OAS, and the Council of Freely Elected Presidents in the Nicaraguan electoral process. Former Belizean Prime Minister George Price said he will continue the observation work to ratify the honesty of the elections for the world.

[Begin Price recording] As impartial observers, we met with UNO [Nicaraguan Opposition Unity] representatives last night to listen to their comments, ideas, and the way they see the future. As part of the democratic process, a very important event took place this morning—the granting of the amnesty. [end recording]

In addition, visitors met with the UNO Political Council and the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]. U.S. Senator Dodd told the CSE president that he has received UNO complaints against the FSLN. In the afternoon, the

visitors, along with Commander Jaime Wheelock Roman, visited Chiltepe Project. Tomorrow they will visit Puerto Cabezas, Boaco, Masaya, and Granada. Dodd, Carazo Odio, and George Price are visiting Nicaragua as observers for the Council of Freely Elected Presidents headed by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Commander Bayardo Arce said the FSLN and other parties had requested that the CSE extend the deadline to register party poll watchers until 17 February. The Sandinist leader did not rule out the possibility that UNO could have a plan to avoid registering its party poll watchers to sabotage the electoral process.

The Sandinist leader made assurances that the law does not ban candidates from performing as party poll watchers, which is an opportunity UNO has to appoint its party poll watchers. However, not doing so will not diminish the legitimacy of the electoral process, Arce said. UNO, arguing that its party poll watchers are being threatened, is proposing that they be given blank credentials. UNO said the CSE should not be the institution issuing credentials to party poll watchers. Commander Arce said this would be a very serious procedure that would imply giving 160,000 uncontrolled votes to political parties.

[Begin Arce recording] That has a very serious disadvantage, because if each party were able to meet its commitments—the number of party poll watchers each party must have is approximately 16,000—and if the 10 parties had the capacity to have those party poll watchers, we would be talking about 160,000 credentials. There is a particular circumstance here; that is, the party poll watchers are the only individuals who can vote at any of the polling stations, whether they registered there or not. Another problem is that a party poll watcher can be at a polling station at 0700, can leave at 0800, and can then show up at a different station with his credentials and vote again. All this could leave room for rumors about manipulation of the electoral process. [end recording]

UNO Activist Kills MAP-ML Candidate

PA1302134390 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1212 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Pablo Baltodano Trana, 47, MAP-ML [Marxist-Leninist Peoples Action Movement] candidate to an assembly post for San Ramon Municipality, Matagalpa Department, has reportedly been murdered by a UNO [National Opposition Union] activist. UNO is backed by the United States and has the military support of the contra movement.

UNO member Napoleon Arceda, 45, used a bayonet to kill his victim, who was defenseless. Baltodano was going to San Ramon Municipality on 11 February, to hold a political meeting.

On previous occasions, UNO activists have chosen defenseless peasants as their victims because the peasants are carrying out propaganda for peace and reconciliation.

UNO has always been considered a political and ideological opponent of MAP-ML. We must recall that Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has been urging all Nicaraguans to give up violence in the election process. Thus, nobody should reach the extreme of murdering anybody for political reasons.

ONUVEN Issues Third Report on Elections

PA0902140490 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 7 Feb 90 p 2

[Third report issued by the UN Observer Mission for the Verification of Elections in Nicaragua, ONUVEN, on 31 January 1990—place not given]

[Text] Third report sent by ONUVEN to the UN Secretary General on the development of the Nicaraguan election process. (31 January 1990)

1. The electoral process has continued to develop in a positive manner. There are still some problems concerning following up on complaints and accusations. These problems result from a lack of human resources and infrastructure and from the legal restrictions of the CSE [Supreme Electoral Council] concerning crimes, the handling and solutions of which depend on the timing and pace at which legal proceedings are handled by ordinary justice. Although aware of those difficulties, it would be desirable to redouble efforts to follow up on the various problems as they arise and develop and to accelerate the solutions of those that fall under the jurisdiction of the electoral authorities. Last, but not least, it is necessary to stress the symbolic importance of the reopening of the 63 JRV's [Ballot-Receiving Boards], which did not operate normally during the electoral registration period, although the quantitative impact of their reopening will be relatively small.

2. Since the official opening of the election campaign on 4 December, there has been an increasing number of public ceremonies and rallies. After the Masatepe incidents, there has not been any other incident of considerable importance. UNO [National Opposition Union] has conducted 94 relatively important rallies, 85 percent of which were observed by ONUVEN. ONUVEN confirmed minor incidents in only 8 of those 94 events. Undoubtedly, the presence of the police and previous arrangements made with the organizers of the rallies have had highly positive results and have contributed toward conducting rallies in an uneventful atmosphere. Everything indicates that that atmosphere will continue until the end of the election campaign.

3. War actions attributed to the RN [Nicaraguan Resistance] continued to be carried out during the period under consideration. Those actions resulted in the tragic loss of human lives. Those actions undoubtedly harmed the election process. This is a worrisome problem,

because although the perpetrators of those actions are not participating in the election process—and therefore the electoral authorities have no way to control them—the actions harm the campaign because of their marked intimidatory character against activists and candidates of the ruling party in the regions where those actions are conducted.

4. One of the main characteristics of this period has undoubtedly been the increasing number of reports on intimidatory actions. Although their importance is in fact more symbolic than quantitative, those actions nonetheless harm the election process, because they create terror. In addition, those actions could hinder the opposition's oversight activities, which would be particularly serious.

In the specific case of the candidates running for municipal posts, the number of withdrawals only represents 2.5 percent of the total number of candidates initially registered. That figure is not very significant, but because of the symbolic importance that the issue acquired, ONUVEN talked to many of the candidates who withdrew from the elections, to party leaders, and to key informants on this problem. Those conversations allowed us to identify three types of withdrawing candidates. The first group of candidates withdrew their candidacies for reasons that do not affect the development of the election process. The reasons range from nominations without previous consultation, unfulfilled expectations from the candidacy, internal conflicts, and/or political or ideological disagreements. Most of the withdrawals of opposition candidates not belonging to UNO and a third of the UNO withdrawals are attributed to those causes. The second group, smaller than the first, corresponds to candidates who withdrew because of minor pressure, which cannot be described as intimidation. It also includes candidates whose withdrawals are linked to low commitment to their parties. The third group includes evidence of withdrawals caused by intimidation, especially in regions of heavy war activity. The intimidatory actions range from damage to people's property to personal threats. Generally speaking, the reports explicitly or implicitly involve members of State Security. The study of the geographical distribution and of the characteristics of the intimidatory actions does not point to the establishment of a common pattern that would allow us to talk about a generalized activity throughout the nation. Our studies point to the existence of actions conducted by local activists. The current comments do not lessen the importance that ONUVEN assigns to this matter, which is in fact one of its main concerns. ONUVEN will continue to closely follow these cases as they appear.

5. Although there are reports about the illegal use of state property, such as public buses for party activities and outside walls of government buildings upon which mural paintings or slogans are painted, there is also evidence of the government's efforts to try to eradicate the use of state property for those purposes. Various government officials have assured us that efforts to eliminate that problem will continue. We have requested the cooperation of the political parties to identify cases that violate the current norms.

6. The second ONUVEN report treated the Nicaraguan media with severity because of the violence of their messages and the subjectivity of their reports, especially television because of its lack of impartiality. The current report appreciates the substantial improvement made by the Sistema Sandinista de Television concerning its expansion of free television time for political discussions, debates, and presentations and the modernization of the format of those programs. This report also appreciates the additional opportunities given to the political parties to buy television time on the two television channels, as well as the Noticiero Sandinista newscast's temporary expanded coverage of the opposition parties' activities. An additional effort, however, should still be made to improve the content of the reports to seek increased impartiality and objectivity in the handling of various political activities. There is more plurality regarding radio stations, because of the diversity of existing radio stations. There are no difficulties in getting access to radio stations, except for those imposed by monetary costs and the availability of resources. The overall assessment is positive.

As for the written media, the overall situation of violence in the reports and the distortion of news continue to be prevailing factors. Despite this, there are significant differences between the various newspapers. BARRICADA, despite being the official mouthpiece of the FSLN, is the newspaper with a more professional approach and the newspaper that, in view of the CSE's suggestions, significantly decreased the level of aggressiveness in the language it uses. At the other extreme, EL NUEVO DIARIO has reached such a point with its overall anti-opposition offensive stance—especially its anti-UNO stance—that it deserved the most severe warning from the CSE. Even though we consider that there has been a favorable evolution in the situation of the media, the possibility of improvements in this matter, as well as in the other topics in the above-mentioned points, were discussed during the meeting between Mr. Richardson and President Ortega.

7. During an electoral process, it is impossible to think in terms of strict equality in all aspects of the process. The most obvious example is the inevitable unequal access to the state apparatus, which is one of the main topics in the electoral campaign. However, there are natural counterbalances, such as the obligation of the president to account for his government's actions. The opposition, on the other hand, can limit itself to criticism and proposals, thus getting the protesters' votes. There are counterbalances resulting from government decisions or political agreements, such as the unusual regulations for financing the parties, which open up the possibility for the political parties to receive foreign funds. The CSE action of ratifying the Code of Electoral Ethics, of promoting interpartisan agreements, and its actions to train party poll watchers and the JRV members are

factors that help balance the competition. The preparation of the voting lists, the drafting of the voting procedure, and the requested presence of international observers during the entire electoral process also contribute to balancing the electoral process.

8. The fact that despite all this the opposition insists on challenging—almost systematically—the CSE is a reason of concern for this mission. The attitude of continuing with this game of permanently challenging the arbitrator makes one think this is an effort seeking to invalidate the arbitrator, or that this is a risky electoral strategy. Finally, another grave reason for concern is the indication of subtle means to disqualify international observers inside as well as outside Nicaragua, and the double repercussion of the invalidation of the arbitrator and of the witnesses is too dangerous not to mention.

LA PRENSA Comments

PA1102042090 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial by Cristina Chamorro B.: "ONUVEN Has Hit the Nail on the Head"]

[Text] ONUVEN's third report was fully explained by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on 6 February. He confirmed serious and extensive deficiencies that require immediate correction, as the elections are very close at hand. Timely corrections must be made, if not, they could lead all of us—including government, observers, and opposition—to painful consequences. We have the duty and the time to avoid them. The most important parts of ONUVEN's report note as obstacles the limitations on the CSE to respond to criminal activity. It also mentions the development of armed activity that it attributed to the Nicaraguan Resistance. However, one of ONUVEN's main concerns, which is shared by us, is the considerable increase in accusations and intimidation that could place obstacles before the opposition's electoral supervision task. ONUVEN's own investigations have confirmed that some of these actions, implicitly or explicitly, involve State Security members. Thus, it has confirmed that the problem was not caused by errors in the electoral system. The problem is caused because the Nicaraguan Government is efficiently following a previously set plan. It is a totally different method from the clumsy one used in Panama. Interior Ministry forces' participation in the intimidation of legal officials shows that the government, headed by the Sandinist candidate, has assigned unlimited time and resources to the implementation of its master plan—an electoral process that is apparently free and pure—but with the knowledge that there are decisive matters to look after in this delicate task, supervising the opposition being most important.

ONUVEN voices an alert in its report. The task of the opposition's supervisors, and their presence at each voting table, is the guarantee for both the opposition and the government. Adequate supervision is the most important proof of the pure and clean nature of the elections when the final results are given. Supervision that satisfies all parties will avoid painful consequences that we will all end up regretting after the elections.

ONUVEN's observation of the challenge the government has placed on the opposition's supervisory task is, according to Dona Violeta de Chamorro's alert to all citizens, the same matter. She called on citizens to back, support, or become supervisors in their municipalities, neighborhoods, and regions. The presidential candidate invited Nicaraguans to become UNO [National Opposition Union] supervisors and said: "Only fraud can take victory away from us."

The final parts of ONUVEN's report maintain that it is not possible to think in equally strict terms in all the fields in which the ongoing electoral struggle is developing. It also stated its concern over what the delegation called the "systematic challenge maintained by the opposition toward the electoral power." It says it fears that these are "indications of subtle ways of disqualifying international observers, both inside and outside of Nicaragua."

The government and observers must be very clear that the Nicaraguan people will not admit capital or venial sins in electoral matters. The thesis held by some foreign politicians is that you cannot demand perfection from the Sandinist leaders, as it is discriminatory. We must demand that the Nicaraguan electoral process be honest and clean. It is a process in which the future of all of Central America and our own national security is at risk.

UNO Promises 'Full Rule of Law' After Election

PA1202173490 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Feb 90 p 3

[Report by Ana Maria Ruiz]

[Text] The National Opposition Union (UNO) has promised to establish full rule of law and to lay the groundwork for it immediately after it assumes power.

This statement was made by Oscar Herdocia, legal counsel for opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro, who defined a state based on constitutional law and order as follows:

"It means subordination of the governed and those who govern to the law." Thus, a legislator will work to enact good laws; otherwise, he will suffer under them.

There is no rule of law in Nicaragua; instead, the entire judicial system has become a nest of contradictions and absurdity," Herdocia said.

"There is a similarity between the concept of democracy in politics and the rule of law in juridical matters," Herdocia said. Both—democracy and the rule of law—have a common goal, which is to seek happiness for the people by establishing such ethical values as justice, equity, and social harmony.

Herdocia lists five elements that characterize the rule of law:

1. Separation of state branches to prevent despotism. Weights and counterweights have to be established among them to establish a healthy equilibrium, thus enabling them to carry out the essential work of legislation, justice, and administration to preserve public order and promote development in the country.

2. Subordination of the state branches or institutions to the law. This means obedience of the military to the civilian authorities.

3. A clear definition of the citizens' rights and the powers of public officials or servants.

4. A system of measures or avenues of recourse allowing citizens to effectively defend and protect their rights against other people as well as state institutions.

5. Real possibility for the governed to periodically elect and replace government authorities and to demand accountability.

"This is what UNO will establish in Nicaragua," Herdocia explained.

He does not think there can be any talk of the immediate establishment of the rule of law; instead, "its actions must be in tune with the laws themselves," he noted.

"We will reach power through the votes and not because of a military coup or through the establishment of a government by decree. Moreover, it must be remembered that two legislatures are required to reform the current Constitution," Herdocia said. However, the legal expert, who is one of the country's most learned men, said UNO will base its immediate amendments on Article 46 of the Constitution, which gives constitutional status to most of the international conventions and declarations on human rights. The correct enforcement of the law by the courts alone will automatically do away with all the secondary constitutional guidelines that inhibit conformity with human rights regulations.

Herdocia noted that to achieve this goal UNO will see to it that judicial system officials are qualified in terms of their honesty, objectivity, competence, and sense of goodwill for the country. The laws on the rights of men will have priority, he added. In any case, where the laws come into conflict, this will be the guideline for each legal suit so every piece of legislation that violates the rights of men can be almost immediately voided, he said.

He supports shortening the terms of the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Supreme Electoral Council, and the comptroller general of the Republic so the renewing change in the judicial system coincides with the installation of the new government. Herdocia also felt the Constitution must undergo profound changes, as the Sandinist bloc majority approved this Constitution. According to him, the result will be a new Constitution that guarantees justice and gives Nicaraguans a democratic and, most of all, modern state.

"Considering the current deterioration of the legal system in the country, immediate action will have to be taken on specific matters that require priority attention. Then we have to introduce more profound changes into the current Constitution and in the judicial branch, since they, like all the activities in the country, have regressed many decades—while fraternal nations have become modernized. The law must respond adequately to all the current needs in all areas of Nicaraguan society," Herdocia noted.

6 Feb Press Review on Election Campaign

PA0902204290

[Editorial Report] The government newspaper BARRICADA, on pages 1 and 5, reports on a Sandinist National Liberation Front—FSLN—5 February rally in the Javier Cuadra, Monsignor Lezcano, Cuba, and Acahualinca neighborhoods of Managua. One of the highlights of the rallies, led by President Daniel Ortega and Vice President Sergio Ramirez, was "the presence of thousands of housewives, who forsook their soap operas to attend the rally." Ortega said that "the people are creating an enormous river that will overflow into the great plaza on 21 February. On that day we are going to hit a homer out of the ballpark." The report claims there was a huge turnout in the four different neighborhoods.

In Acahualinca, Ortega called on the people "to vote in box number five to continue to defend the interests of the masses."

The same newspaper on page 4 carries an article reporting on changes in the "Elections 90" television debate program. It will now be carried daily, instead of three days a week. The first two parties to appear on the daily program were the Movement of the Revolutionary Unity—MUR—and the Democratic Conservative Party (PCD). The article adds that from now on "parties and coalitions can freely buy television time on the national television network programs to transmit spots from 1730 to 2100."

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, on page 3, carries a message by Violeta de Chamoro, dated 1 February, to party representatives at polling booths. She says she is sure of a National Opposition Union—UNO—victory, and that "only an electoral fraud can take that away from us." She then urges all UNO members to defend their rights, adding that "the FSLN, aware of its defeat, is unleashing a campaign of harassment and threats against our party representatives."

LA PRENSA, on pages 1 and 12, also carries a report on a drinking water shortage in several towns, like La Concepcion, Diriomo, Niquinohomo, San Marcos and Jinotepe. Many diseases are rampant because of lack of water. A local resident in La Concepcion said that "the Sandinists only give water to their party members." Citizens complain, however, that the water bills arrive punctually.

The same paper on page 5 reports on security personnel harassing Julio Fletes—not further identified—who had reported on a plot to poison Violeta De Chamorro when she went to Bluefields. Fletes said that "a high- ranking Interior Ministry official on three occasions ordered him to pour suspicious-looking drops, possibly poison, into the food Violeta and her group were going to eat." Fletes told foreign newsmen about this, but no one ever reported it. He has had to go into hiding because security personnel are looking for him, the report adds.

7 Feb Press Review

PA0902204690

[Editorial Report] The government newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO, on pages 1 and 8, reports on an FSLN rally at Juigalpa on 6 February led by Daniel Ortega. Ortega told the people: "You do not have to be a sorcerer or an astrologer to know the results of the elections. The people have already voted for the FSLN." According to the report, more than 30,000 people attended the rally. Ortega praised the bravery of the peasants present, "although they have been threatened by the Somozist mercenaries, who want to force them to vote for UNO."

Meanwhile, the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, on pages 1 and 12, reports on rallies held in Bluefields on 4 and 6 February. The 6 February rally was led by Alvin Guthrie Rivers, candidate for deputy, and more than 2,000 people attended. The people demanded "an end to the compulsory military service and true autonomy for the area," the report said. On 4 February, Guthrie Rivers had also staged a rally in Bluefields attended by more than 6,000 people. He said that "with the UNO government, the residents of the coastal areas will be able to regulate their tax revenue and the region's great mining, fishing, and forest resources."

8 Feb Press Review

PA1002041490

[Editorial Report] The government newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO, on page 17, publishes reprints of three different documents titled under the following: "Overwhelming Proof of The Alliance Between The National Guard and UNO." The first document is a communique issued by the Oliver North Brigade, which was originally printed by the newspaper LA PRENSA CENTROAMERICANA in its 5 January 1990 issue. The communique urges people to support the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN). In the second paragraph, the communique says: "We need uniforms, moral and material support, and men willing to be trained. The brigade has training camps in various states throughout the United States and has instructors with experience in the military field."

The second document is the text of a letter signed by Jose Wenceslao Mayorga (not further identified) and addressed to Lieutenant Colonel Bernardino Larios (former Sandinist charged with being a counterrevolutionary) in Miami, Florida. The date of the letter is 22 September 1989. In the letter, Mayorga urges Larios to participate in the Nicaraguan election process by returning to Nicaragua and supporting the UNO presidential candidates.

The third document is the text of a communique issued by the Committee To Obtain Aid for UNO, which according to the newspaper, is based in Miami. The communique does not bear any date of issuance. The communique urges people to provide support for "Violeta Chamorro's election campaign" in the form of "communication and propaganda equipment." The document is accompanied by a picture of a group of people gathered around a table, bearing the following caption: "The Committee Pro-Free Elections in Nicaragua meets in Miami. Nicolas Lopez Maltez (not further identified) has the floor, while Arturo Cruz and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios listen to him carefully and with reverence. By the way, former OSN (National Security Office under the Somoza government) member Lopez Maltez hosted a party on the day when Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal was murdered."

The government newspaper BARRICADA, on pages 1 and 6, reports on a meeting between Nicaraguan Commander Bayardo Arce and a group of French election observers who had visited Nicaragua. Among other things, Arce says that "instead of asking him about the election process," the observers asked him what the new FSLN government will be like. Arce also says that the most recent United Nations report on the Nicaraguan elections "is quite good, although it fails to include recent improvements."

9 Feb Press Review

PA1202175090

[Editorial Report] The FSLN newspaper BARRICADA on page 11 carries a report on an interview—no date given—with Eli Altamirano, leader of the Communist Party of Nicaragua. Among other things, Altamirano says that "there is a world of difference between presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro and the Nicaraguan communists." Altamirano says the reason his party joined the UNO alliance was "to seek solutions to the country's problems" through "joint actions." Altamirano concludes by saying that the international election observers' verdicts "deserve respect."

On page 2, BARRICADA carries an article by Juan Diego Lopez, FSLN candidate to an assembly post in Region Three. In his article, Lopez says he is not an FSLN militant, but that he chose to run as a candidate for the FSLN because its leaders "have learned from their mistakes and are determined to correct them." He denies that the FSLN is using him to "sell an image of political pluralism and democracy in Nicaragua." Lopez says: "No Sandinist leader has asked me to change the way I think or act. I act and think as a prosperous agricultural producer." Lopez concludes that in the

current elections UNO is moved by a "strong feeling of resentment and political revenge."

On page 30, BARRICADA carries a report on statements by Marvin Palacios Paiz, FSLN candidate to an assembly post in Region Two. Palacios says the FSLN has already won the elections in Region Two, because "55 percent of its voters have participated in FSLN rallies during the last couple of weeks." Palacios adds that after Daniel Ortega's visit to that region, the percentage of undecided voters "significantly declined" and that they expressed their will to vote for the FSLN.

For its part, the government newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO, on pages 1 and 8 carries a 700-word editorial attributed to Danilo Aguirre on the "indisputable victory of the FSLN over U.S. interference" in the election process. The editorial says Carter's statements in Washington and the reports issued by international observers point to an FSLN election victory. The editorial goes on to say how everything will be better after the FSLN's 25 February election triumph.

The Nicaraguan opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, on pages 1 and 12, carries a detailed report on UNO preparations for its "gigantic march" to be held in Managua on 18 February to mark the end of the election campaign.

LA PRENSA, on pages 1 and 12, carries a report on violence aimed at UNO candidates during their visit to Waslala in the Atlantic region. The report says that people attacked Virgilio Godoy's and Myriam Arguello's cars with rocks and sticks. The report adds that soldiers near the place of the incident responded with "hostility" to the UNO candidates' protests over the attack.

On pages 1 and 12, LA PRENSA carries a report saying that Planning Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca's absence from a public debate with UNO economist Francisco Mayorga means "Mayorga's recognition of the FSLN defeat in the economic field."

On page 3, LA PRENSA publishes a message delivered by UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro regarding the agreement signed by UNO and the Yatama Indians, and the text of a Yatama resolution supporting UNO. In her message, Chamorro praises the identity maintained by the Nicaraguan Indians of the Atlantic coast and their political autonomy. Chamorro expresses support for the Yatama's "forms of organization" and promises that UNO will sponsor plans for the development of the Altantic coast Indian communities.

For its part, the first clause of the whereas section of the Yatama resolution says that "as an independent, vanguard movement," Yatama "supports the presidential ticket of Violeta Chamorro and Virgilio Godoy for the upcoming presidential elections." The resolution is signed by Brooklyn Rivera and Steadman Fagoth, among other Yatama leaders.

10 Feb Press Review

PA1302032890

[Editorial Report] The government paper EL NUEVO DIARIO on 10 February publishes, on page 5, an interview with Carlos Nunez, FSLN candidate for deputy of the National Assembly, by newsman Edgard Barberena. No date is given for the interview. Asked about the "bitter draft," the pardon given to the former guardsmen and contras, Nunez says the measure shows Nicaragua is taking "serious, specific" actions that "cannot be ignored by the international community or the U.S. administration." He adds that the United States, in turn, should take action to ensure the demobilization of armed groups and the release of people who have been kidnapped, and should also show willingness to respect agreements reached by the Central American presidents and a clear intention to begin negotiations with Nicaragua.

Nunez also says in the interview that upon its victory, the FSLN does not intend to offend or harm its political adversaries, but rather will take the "necessary political, economic, and social steps to rebuild the country."

On UNO's electoral chances, Nunez said he is not worried about UNO's "boastful" statements because over the past few days, he has observed an "increasing weakness" and a "deepening of conflicts" within UNO. He says UNO is due to fall apart because "it is difficult to believe that a coalition encompassing the extreme left and the extreme right can easily conciliate their interests...."

Asked about the newspaper LA PRENSA's reported willingness to print propaganda from non-UNO parties, Nunez says this is just a "cosmetic" ploy by that "pro-U.S." paper to cover up its pro-UNO bias.

In response to a question about the possibility that the FSLN might not win a majority in the National Assembly, Nunez says that no reliable figures have been produced to support that contention. He says the FSLN is working to win 70 percent of the seats, but regardless of whether it wins "60, 65, or 70 percent" of the seats in the assembly or the municipal councils, "we will draft a policy that will permit us to continue the advances that have been made...." He adds that even in the "hypothetical" event that the opposition were to win 50 percent of the assembly seats, it would be unable to carry out its announced plans to amend the constitution because "total amendment requires one half plus one." The government newspaper BARRICADA publishes several articles on the activities of FSLN candidates.

In an item on pages 1 and 5, the paper reports on the huge crowds that welcomed President Ortega when he visited the neighborhoods in the eastern part of Managua. The subtitle says that "20,000 people toured the eastern neighborhoods with Daniel." The item quotes Ortega as saying, upon seeing the crowd: "This is why the final campaign rally cannot be held in Revolutionary Square; it is not big enough; we would completely

overwhelm it." The report says the crowd "booed" UNO and laughed with Ortega when he suggested that UNO needs a "life preserver," and should, therefore, grab hold of the FSLN's Number Five box on the ballot. Ortega is quoted as saying that he who holds on to that box will be saved; "he who does not, will sink."

In another article on pages 1 and 3, BARRICADA reports that some 10,000 residents of Tipitapa turned out for a rally in honor of FSLN vice presidential candidate Sergio Ramirez. After emphasizing the great support that the FSLN has received everywhere, the report cites Ramirez as saying that Nicaragua is not the enemy of the U.S. Government. It says Ramirez expressed the hope that "Bush will recognize the FSLN's inevitable victory... so normal relations can be established, based on respect for our self-determination and sovereignty."

Another BARRICADA article, on pages 1 and 5, reports that Daniel Ortega met on 9 February at the Olof Palme Convention Center with some 2,000 labor union leaders and informed them that, effective 1 February, all workers earning less than 6 million cordobas would be exempt from paying income tax. He also told them that the new labor code and the worker's performance law will be two of the first bills to be discussed in the National Assembly "after the FSLN is reaffirmed in power on 25 February." In return, the labor leaders "assured the president that between 85 and 90 percent of the labor force will vote for Nunber Five on the ballot."

Another item on pages 3 and 4 reports that the FSLN and three opposition parties filed a request on 9 February for an extension of the deadline on registering party poll watchers. The item says the FSLN was concerned because UNO had not managed to register the required number of poll watchers, which, according to the item, reveals UNO's "great organizational weakness."

BARRICADA also publishes several reports on UNO activities. In a report from Jinotega by Juan Ramon Huerta and Marilena Castillo, the paper says UNO had another "fiasco" in Jinotega. It reports that "strangers, some of whom had never been seen in the city before," led the demonstration, while "true Jinotega residents" closed their doors, and only the curious and some "malcontents and muddle-headed peasants" went to the demonstration site. The paper reports that UNO was able to fill only "one fourth" of the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Market Square, where the rally was held. It adds that to make things worse, when candidate Violeta Chamorro—the paper consistently refers to her as Violeta Barrios—addressed the group, she called the people "Friends from Jinotepe," showing that "she did not know where she was."

In the same vein, the report says the other UNO speakers were unimpressive. It adds that Chamorro's running mate, Virgilio Godoy, said that after 25 February the Sandinists would be called to account, which the paper says is in contrast to what Chamorro and other UNO leaders have said recently.

In another report on UNO activities, on pages 3 and 4, BARRICADA says that on 9 February, some UNO leaders "openly defied" Violeta Chamorro's statement that she would honor the verdict of international observers. It adds that some other leaders declined to comment on this and "only Dr. Gustavo Tablada agreed with Mrs. Barrios." The article cites UNO legal adviser Adolfo Garcia Esquivel as saying that while the observers have a function, it will be up to UNO to comment on whether there was fraud or not. It cites another UNO activist, Eli Altamirano, as saying that unless some of UNO's demands, such as a public vote count, are met "the elections will be considered fraudulent."

Another BARRICADA article, on pages 3 and 6, publishes a headline that says members of the former Somozist National Guard who were pardoned on 9 February have "closed ranks with UNO." The article publishes comments by several of the released former guardsmen, who are quoted as saying that they believe UNO will win the elections and that Mrs. Chamorro has many good qualities. The report also notes in passing that the guardsmen are unrepentant.

Panama

Endara Rules Out Amnesty for Former Officials

PA1102153490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2206 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 9 Feb (DPA)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara said today that a climate does not exist in Panama to decree an amnesty for all the former officials and military men who collaborated with the ousted regime of Manuel Antonio Noriega and are currently held in Panamanian jails. The Panamanian people asked for justice and will have justice, but a true justice, not revenge, Endara said moments before attending a ceremony of the Association of Photographers and Cameramen of Panama.

Endara felt that the trials of the former officials must be based on the law, giving the defendants all the rights they are entitled to as human beings. The Panamanian president also went to the Attorney General's Office, where hundreds of persons were demonstrating against former Noriega regime authorities. He said that the defendants, even if they are criminals, are entitled to a legal defense and demanded that the people respect the Attorney General's office.

Ford Views Economic Recovery, IMF 'Impositions'

PA1002235690 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Interview with Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, by unidentified reporter in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ford] We have established permanent contact with the World Bank and the IMF. We will present the country's budget to them within the next three weeks. We are also making efforts to try to bring accounts current with those institutions. In that way, Panama will be able to receive loans that have been frozen because of the payments in arrears we inherited from the previous government.

It is very important for the Panamanian people not to have false expectations or to expect our economic problems to be solved within the very short term. We are taking specific steps so we can begin to notice firm and constant economic recovery.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, there is fear that the Panamanian economic model will be subordinated to the plans of the international credit organizations.

[Ford] I can frankly tell you—and with due respect to all those international organizations—that Panama will need to have its own economic model. Panama hopes to be treated with respect and dignity. Past impositions, such as the massive dismissal of public employees, of which previous governments talked about, will not be accepted by us, especially under the current dramatic circumstances. I repeat, we will bring accounts current with those organizations. We will abide by their conditions—every bank imposes conditions on the loans it grants—but by no means will we adopt models that could do further harm to the already deteriorated Panamanian economy. We will not tolerate that.

[Reporter] Some analysts have stated that sooner or later the government will have to adopt a series of unpopular measures. Is the government prepared to face such a situation once it arises?

[Ford] I do not know what the measures are that they are talking about. The problem is that sometimes Panamanians become a little self-destructive. We begin to speculate, and once we convince ourselves of something we begin telling everyone about it. I am not aware of any unpopular measures the government is planning to adopt. Our president has stated that we will not modify the Labor Code. Why? Because we made that promise during our election campaign. Insofar as the labor force and the sector that holds the capital understand each other within an atmosphere of respect, dignity, honor, and in a desire to work and produce, there should not be any employee-employer conflicts.

In addition, there will not be massive dismissals designed to relieve the weight of the government payroll. What we have done is purge the government, and I do not believe we have purged it well enough. We have dismissed people who hurt and harmed the government that paid them and the country for which they worked.

Today, I am dismissing a number of paramilitary and Codepadi [Committee for the Defense of the Fatherland and Dignity] members, who have endangered the lives of their own coworkers. I do not want the community to think that we are doing this out of revenge. That does not exist in my ministry and I am sure that the same goes for the other ministries.

We also receive complaints from other people who believe we have not purged the government quickly enough. We want honest employees regardless of their political tendencies or the political party they support, including the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party]. What we want are honest employees who work for the government and not for one single person.

Arias Reports Reduced Budget for Public Force

PA1002153190 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0006 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Government Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon has reported that the budget of the new Public Force will amount to approximately $84 million a year, instead of the more than $150 million a year spent by the defunct Panama Defense Forces. He added that there has also been a reduction in the police force, from more than 17,000 members to less than 13,000.

Arias Views Crime Rate, U.S. Police Presence

PA1002214990 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2337 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon has said that after the U.S. troops' withdrawal from Panama, there will still be military policemen in some areas to guarantee security around the country. Meanwhile, the Panamanian community cries out for more surveillance on our streets. Despite a relative increase in such surveillance over the past few days, security on our avenues and buses and in our homes continues to be uncertain.

[Unidentified speaker] "There are too many robberies and not enough policemen. We sell lottery tickets on the streets and we are being constantly robbed. We cannot sell anything. We have to head home as early as 1600. We cannot sell anything here. There is not enough surveillance."

[Unidentified speaker] "There is so much abuse. There are too many thieves and attacks. Surveillance must increase."

Government and Justice Minister Arias Calderon admitted that the crime rate has increased over the past few weeks. He also said that the Public Force is receiving the support of the community and the private sector to provide more security for all citizens.

[Arias] "The crime rate has increased, especially in the metropolitan area over the past few weeks. The reasons for it are all well known and include weapons availability and the fact that many people, who had been sentenced for various crimes and were serving sentences in the local

jails, escaped after the 20 December events and have not been rearrested because they are in hiding. Another reason for the crime rate increase is the current economic situation, which makes people desperate and often leads them to commit crimes. Despite those problems, about 10 days ago, the Metropolitan Police adopted a series of measures and we have begun to notice a gradual drop in the crime rate."

According to the Panamanian people, the joint actions of the U.S. military police and the Panamanian Public Force members, however, do not seem to be able to control the tentacles of the underworld.

[Unidentified speaker] "I think there is a little more surveillance now, but there was not very much surveillance before. I saw a policeman looking at a woman who was being robbed without doing anything to help her."

[Unidentified speaker] "To tell you the truth, we are very frightened by these robberies. We hope the government adopts more measures to give us more protection."

[Unidentified speaker] "We have to take care of ourselves and arm ourselves, otherwise the thieves steal everything we own."

In view of the citizens' fear, sources close to this newscast mentioned the possibility of more military policemen, who would patrol our country's streets along with Public Force members.

Minister Arias Calderon stated that the Public Force is gaining the Panamanian people's trust and respect. Arias added that the Public Force members are improving their ability to protect Panamanians' honor and property. Arias Calderon also added that, as of 12 February, the government will begin issuing gun permits. Arias said that during the first 90 days of the permit issuing period, people will not be asked to show purchase receipts for their weapons.

[Arias] "Our exception is, during the first 90 days of the permit issuing period, all Panamanians who acquired weapons in one way or another over the past few months to protect themselves will be allowed to request and obtain their gun permits without having to present documents to justify the origin of the weapons. After that period, however, the authorities will request a purchase receipt or a transfer of ownership document for all weapons.

I also want to recall that gun permits issued by the nonexistent Defense Forces of General Noriega will not be valid after 1 March."

Arias Calderon also talked about the current situation within the Public Force.

[Arias] "We have 4,500 metropolitan policemen. These policemen no longer stay in the barracks. They work eight-hour shifts, like all other public employees. There are 1,500 policemen available on the streets at all times. The U.S. presence in our country decreases as the Panamanian Public Force gains the people's trust and is able to offer security to the Panamanian people. The moment will come—soon, although we do not know exactly when—when we will be able to guarantee our own security and respect for the people's rights."

Paredes Answers Charges; Crowd 'Inflamed'

PA1002124890 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] The Panamanian people continue to demand justice at the public prosecutors' offices. This morning, former PRD [Revolutionary Democaratic Party] Legislator Rigoberto Paredes appeared at the first municipal legal office. His appearance served as a guage to measure the Panamanian people's rejection of many former officials—civilian and military—of the former Noriega regime.

[Rigoberto Paredes, in progress] "...the charges I know about—because I only know of some, and I do not know if there are others—are all false and fanciful. I believe they are the result of the political persecution that has broken out these days. So, I, having already testified at a prosecutor's office about other charges that are also fanciful, false, and slanderous, have come to legal officer Juan Garcia now to respond to more questions related to charges of personal injuries that I allegedly inflicted on a person I do not even know. The questioning is about to start, and I do not know if the legal officer will permit me to say anything else about this case until I am questioned. I prefer him to ask the questions, and you can stay here and take note of my answers. I believe that is best. Do you not think so? He is going to start asking me questions right now."

[Reporter] "Your comments on the embezzlement of millions of dollars by military men and collusion between PRD and government members—what can you say? Did you know of all these irregularities?"

[Paredes] "I really.... [changes thought] What has astounded me the most is the extent of the embezzelment and the amounts involved."

[Reporter] "Were you ignorant of this?"

[Paredes] "Totally. And I will tell you something else: I have been in politics since approximately 1963, when I took part in party activities to become a candidate in 1964. I have occupied many government positions and, up to now, no charges of this nature have been filed against me. What is more, when I was asked about my personal accounts, I gave all the necessary information. One of the reasons that I have not been tried is because they only found debts and very small savings accounts."

[Reporter] "Did you not command the paramilitary batallions in La Chorrera?

[Paredes] "No, No. I was charged with this and answered questions at the prosecutor's office. I did register, along with my wife, in the Dignity Battalions. I believe it was in September when there was a registration campaign. She and I attended physical excercises in La Chorreara. In one of the charges against me, it was stated that I was commander of the Patria Battalion in Arraijan. This is not true. If it were, I would admit it, as I have admitted that I registered in the battalions in September with my wife. I did so and the reasons that moved me to do so were patriotic. We had been victims of an agression by the U.S. Government since 1987."

[Annoncer] In referring to human rights violations during the former Noriega regime, Paredes said:

[Paredes] "I say that it was wrong. It was wrong, but I never violated anybody's human rights. So, now you are asking questions and you asked me what my opinion was. Please repeat your question."

[Reporter] "What is your opinion of General Noriega now that you know about all the embezzelment, ill treatment, and humiliations?"

[Paredes] "Yes, I have two statements to make on this subject. First, for me it was a disappointment. It was a disappointment. I will never deny my relations with him. He was my friend, and I consider myself to be his friend still. I do not know if he has stopped being my friend. I was very disappointed when I was in the mountains, and I went to the ranch of a peasant on 25 December, and he told me that Noriega had surrended the previous day. I was disappointed because I believed he had the obligation, as the leader he had shown himself to be up to that time—the leader of a nationalist cause—to struggle and even to give his life, if necessary.

"He did not do so, and this was a disappointment. Second, since I respect the law and the rights of every person, I say the following: If the charges against Noriega are true, it will be my second disappointment, because he should have either abandoned the leadership or simply surrendered earlier if he was into all these things."

[Announcer] While Paredes answered the legal officer's questions, hundreds of citizens waited for him outside the building. When the questioning was over, and despite the fact that he was heavily guarded, it was difficult for the Public Force [FP] guards to keep the inflamed crowd away from him. [video shows crowd attempting to attack Paredes as FP guards escort him to an awaiting truck, which pulls away with the crowd in pursuit]

This confusion caused a serious incident in which a Public Force member was involved. This situation increased the anger of the demonstrators, who demanded an explanation from the attorney general [Rogelio Cruz].

[Cruz, in progress] "...I am learning the facts now."

[Reporter] "Are you going to take any immediate action? Did you know that the Public Force fired?"

[Cruz] "Yes. This morning I ordered that, beginning tomorrow, we will not bring persons here to answer questions."

[Reporter] "Where are you going to take them, to the Modelo jail?"

[Cruz] "To the jails."

[Annoncer] This situation, which got out of the authorities' control, motivated President Guillermo Endara and Government Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon to come to these offices to speak to the people, and the president finally managed to quiet them down.

[Endara] "Justice is what we are going to have in Panama, but it has to be justice according to the law. It cannot be justice taken by human masses. It has to be according to the legal and penal codes. We have to give the charged persons their rights, all the rights required. This is a democratic country now. We all have to respect the rights of others. The defendants have their rights, even if a criminal comes here to answer questions. Defendants have to have rights, even if it is a person we all hate because we know he is not an honest and true Panamanian. However, as a human being, he has constitutional rights."

Comptroller General Issues Communique on Budget

PA1102220290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 3A

["Text" of communique issued by Ruben Dario Carlos, comptroller general of the Republic, in Panama City on 9 February]

[Text] After a lengthy meeting with Jose Galan Ponce, deputy minister of planning and economic policy, Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles announced that they had carefully examined the situation of public finances in preparation for the 1990 national revenues and expenditures and found the following:

1. The government operated during January and February with a preliminary budget.

2. The Cabinet Council decided a short-term budget should be prepared in addition to a budget for the entire year 1990.

3. The Planning and Economic Policy Ministry [MIPPE] is currently receiving draft budgets for 1990 from various government agencies, including the central government, autonomous and semi-autonomous entities, and state-run companies.

4. The MIPPE and the Comptroller General's Office remind everyone that these preparations are being made according to Article 264 and subsequent articles of our national Constitution, which establish the rules for the study and preparation of the national budget.

5. Both the MIPPE and the Comptroller General's Office must point out that the budget revenues and expenditures must balance out, as per constitutional mandate. Therefore, the government requires great discipline and understanding from its agencies in confronting the fiscal situation the country is experiencing, which makes it impossible for the government to meet the demands, expectations, and wishes of government agencies.

6. We understand that all official agencies want to carry out extensive work to thoroughly satisfy the needs and demands of the population. However, we have the limitation that no expenditures will be authorized over and above revenue collection.

7. Hence, all government agency directors will have to review their budget expectations and proposals and adjust them to the criteria set by the MIPPE and the Comptroller General's Office based on the need to prioritize the use of resources.

8. Once the executive branch has approved the draft budgets, they will be sent to the Legislative Assembly for discussion and final approval.

9. In the event that the national economy recovers, the level of economic activity increases, and public revenue improves, the activity of the state will also increase and diversify, trying to recover the impulse that will lead us once again to economic growth.

Incident With U.S. Troops Occurs at University

PA1302015090 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2355 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 12 Feb (DPA)—U.S. Army troops today raided the National University of Panama's campus, causing a serious incident with administrative personnel and student leaders who were inside the installations even though classes have been suspended since the U.S. invasion on 20 December 1989.

University Secretary General Miguel Angel Candanedo said that the soldiers "invaded" the university's campus with "Hummer" vehicles while two others were used to cut off the arrival and departure of automobiles in the installations.

The university's administrative official said that he and Assistant Rector Justo Medrano tried to persuade the foreign soldiers to abandon the higher education center. The soldiers refused at first, but they later opted to abide by the order following a lengthy discussion, he said.

Candanedo said that this actions "does not contribute at all" to the resumption of classes at the university, which have been suspended until 1 March.

The walls of the university's buildings appeared today painted with anti-U.S. and anti-Guillermo Endara government slogans.

Envoy to U.S. Resigns; New Envoy Seeks Approval

PA1202222890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 12 Feb 90 p 1A

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Carlos Rodriguez, Panamanian ambassador to Washington, has resigned from his post and the Panamanian Government is awaiting U.S. Government approval to appoint Eduardo Vallarino, current Panamanian ambassador to the United Nations, as the new ambassador to the United States.

Foreign Minister Julio Linares explained that Rodriguez had only accepted the appointment as Panamanian ambassador to Washington for a short period of time, since Rodriguez has several business commitments in the United States.

Carlos Rodriguez ran for the first presidency of the Republic in the 1984 elections for the opposition slate headed by Dr. Arnulfo Arias Madrid.

The new Panamanian ambassador to Washington was president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (CONEP), a member of the Panamanian Committee for Human Rights, and the leader of the multiassociation organization known as the "National Civic Crusade." He is also a member of the Christian Democratic Party.

Argentina

Cavallo To Announce U.K. Decision on Zone

PY1202144890 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1342 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (DYN) — Over the past weekend President Carlos Menem indicated that during the course of a news conference to be given this afternoon, Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo will announce the British decision to lift the exclusion zone surrounding the Malvinas Islands.

The Foreign Ministry Press Office has announced that Cavallo will hold his news conference at 1700 [1900 GMT] at Government House.

The minister will detail the advances that have been achieved in the negotiations with the British, and he will report on his recent European trip.

Says Removal 'Up to Great Britain'

PY1202204290 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2005 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo stated this afternoon that the decision to lift the exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands is up to Great Britain. Cavallo made this statement during a news conference in response to a question regarding President Menem's announcement of an imminent lifting of the exclusion zone around the archipelago.

Further on News Conference

PY1302022090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (NA)—Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo today admitted there are "signs" that Great Britain could order the lifting of the exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands but explained that this decision is "unilateral" and up to the British alone.

The Argentine foreign minister emphasized that Argentina is doing "everything possible" to rebuild mutual confidence and voiced his desire to see "diplomatic relations reestablished."

"I hope that on 14 February I will be able to speak not about possibilities but about the final decision from both parties," the minister said to 100 Argentine and foreign journalists during a news conference this afternoon at the situation hall of Government House.

On 14 February Argentina and Great Britain will launch the final stage of talks aimed at the resumption of diplomatic relations, after negotiating the solution to the central disagreement over the military exclusion zone instituted by the United Kingdom during the 1982 war.

This meeting will take place in Madrid, and for two days Argentine Ambassador Lucio Garcia del Solar and Sir Crispin Tickell, the UK representative to the United Nations, will negotiate strenuously.

Speaking about this meeting, Cavallo expressed his hope that "in a short while" the two countries "will be able to exchange ambassadors" and stressed the progress attained in the negotiations, which he labeled "very positive."

Cavallo revealed that today U.S. President George Bush sent a letter to Argentine President Carlos Menem, "and most probably to the British prime minister, expressing his satisfaction over the progress achieved in the negotiations to reestablish diplomatic relations between the two countries."

He explained that if Great Britain lifts the exclusion zone around the Malvinas Islands, "our country will not object to British ships sailing" through jurisdictional waters.

During his talk with the journalists, Cavallo reviewed all the issues related to the conflict with the United Kingdom in a cautious manner. Even though he did not hedge, his answers were not conclusive.

He reported that "ideas and information designed to prevent incidents" in the area in dispute were exchanged during the latest meetings between diplomatic representatives of the two countries.

About the influence that the EEC had on the reestablishment of commercial relations between the parties in conflict, Cavallo—who last week finished a tour that took him through Spain, Italy, France, and the FRG—said that "ever since the first meeting held in Madrid in October, contacts have been encouraging and everything has turned out to be very positive."

He also said that "the United Kingdom has cooperated in the negotiations between Argentina and the IMF (over the foreign debt) and with the Paris Club."

Meanwhile it has been reported that if an agreement is reached in Madrid and if the United Kingdom agrees to lift the exclusion zone, the latter will be replaced by a security system that will allow the two countries to control the activities of nonmilitary ships and planes.

Cavallo also reported that Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti will visit Argentina on 13-14 March. He also reiterated that Argentina will manufacture "Condor" missiles for peaceful purposes.

Menem Message to UN Disarmament Conference

PY0902233890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1307 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Geneva, 8 Feb (EFE)—Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem has asked the UN Disarmament Conference to draw up multilateral agreements that will perfect the measures taken in this field by the United States and the USSR and make them coherent at a

universal level. This message was released today before the first 1990 session of the UN conference by Argentine Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan, who read Carlos Saul Menem's message to the only UN multilateral forum on disarmament.

In his message Menem states that "this organ for negotiations, created by universal consensus, must come up with indispensable measures on a subject that, because of its nature, cannot be restricted to a bilateral level."

Menem urged the 40 member countries of the conference "not to delay the conclusions of the convention prohibiting the use of chemical weapons" and to make progress in the negotiations on the prevention of a military war in outer space." [quotation marks as received]

Menem then said that "nuclear weapons should be eliminated from the military dictionary and the current positive negotiations should take into account the fact that a stable and permanent peace must involve all types of weapons and the countries that possess them."

Menem voiced his confidence that "the negotiations on multilateral disarmament will not affect the right and need for all states to have access to technology."

Menem Rejects Government Pact; Wants Agreement

PY1202140290 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0203 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires 11 Feb (TELAM)—President Menem today insisted on the need to achieve an "economic agreement that will have a great impact on the social sector and will bring calm to the political sector."

Menem rejected a "government pact," however, because "a decision was made in the 14 May elections: those who win control the government. Those who lose must support and help the government. This is the way things are. I believe that government pacts are like coalition governments. I do not want a coalition government. I want an agreement."

Speaking to Radio Rivadavia, Menem said that a mere change of government cannot resolve "the problems Argentina has experienced over the past 30 or 40 years. To do this we not only need to change the president, or an economic team. We need to change a philosophy, particularly in the economic sector. We must change a statist philosophy for a philosophy of freedom."

Menem added: "We must overcome this situation. Argentines must understand that there is no other alternative for Argentina. I tell them that we have to make more sacrifices. I am not doing anything that is against my fatherland, that is against Argentina or the Argentine people." [passage omitted]

Menem added that "very few people forsake their personal interests for those of the fatherland." He said that the workers "have been carrying the burden of this long and difficult crisis but they continue to believe that it is necessary to work so Argentina can overcome this difficult situation."

Economic Policy Widely Supported by Businessmen

PY1302021190 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2012 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Feb (TELAM)—Argentine Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez this afternoon said that there is "widespread support" among businessman for the government economic policy.

The minister made this remark at the end of the meeting he and other ministers held with Argentine businessmen in an effort to reach economic agreements.

Minister Gonzalez stated: "The consensus we have obtained will become the basic agreement that will lead to the signing of a true social pact."

Justicialist Party 'Militants' Urge Reforms

PY1302020190 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)—San Clemente del Tuyu—The first national meeting of the so-called "Peronist militant" faction of the Justicialist Party concluded yesterday in this Atlantic coast summer resort under the leadership of Catamarca Governor Ramon Saadi.

The different committees which over the weekend discussed the national situation and evaluated the performance of President Carlos Menem's government arrived at the conclusion that the present economic policy "should be changed for one promoting federalization" and issued a document advocating constitutional reform with the aim of replacing "liberal principles by a right-wing national constitutionalism."

Some 500 Peronist leaders—including deputies, senators, provincial congressmen, mayors and city councillors—attended the closing ceremony at the Fontainbleu Hotel in this city. The "recommendations" agreed here will be presented to President Carlos Menem this week.

The economic policy committee proposed changes with the purpose of "invigorating regional economies, solving the foreign debt problem and helping state banks promote growth and development, and boosting the participation of small and medium-size companies."

In turn, the constitutional reform committee vindicated the values and virtues of the 1949 Constitution adopted during Juan Peron's first period in office. That reform was later eliminated by the 1955 Revolucion Libertadora.

Bolivia

President Paz Comments on Cartagena Summit

PY1302031090 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora has stated that during the Cartagena summit on 15 February, Bolivia will present a proposal for the struggle against drug trafficking based on alternative crops that take into account the results of the Agro-Yungas program.

President Paz Zamora, who addressed a group of coca producers of northern Yungas region, said that the repiacement of coca plantations must be supported by alternative development and foreign markets for the new crops of that region. He noted that coca itself has never caused any harm to mankind. Therefore, the drug-consuming countries should be asked for more economic and technical aid to fight drug trafficking.

[Paz] "In the first place, it should be understood that from Bolivia's point of view coca plantations existed before Bolivia existed; coca plantations existed before the United States existed [applause]; coca plantations have always existed and have never done anyone any harm."

President Jaime Paz Zamora stated that the international community is aware of the efforts made by the Bolivian Government and people against drug trafficking. Therefore, he said, it is their duty to help from the technical and economic point of view.

[Paz] "We have seen that some countries are involved in this problem primarily because they consume cocaine. The countries involved in this problem are the wealthiest and most industrialized countries, especially the United States, because they consume cocaine.

"Therefore, when I go to Cartagena and President Bush asks me to explain to him why Bolivia has planted so many hectares of coca, I will explain why it occurred in Bolivia, and then ask him to explain to me how the U.S. people could elect a mayor in Washington who consumes cocaine. [applause] We will, therefore, have questions for each other."

Before a large crowd of peasants and coca growers of the Coroico settlement in the Yungas Region, President Paz Zamora said that the Bolivian coca growers, the cocaine-consuming countries, and the cocaine-producing countries must fight and erradicate drug trafficking together because drug trafficking is destroying several sectors of international society.

[Paz] "We have the responsibility to stop producing an excess of coca leaves. We must compromise to produce coca only for our traditional use. We must ensure production for our own consumption, but we must make sure not to produce more coca leaves than that because the coca leaves that we do not consume are directly used in the production of cocaine. This must be our commitment to the rest of the world. The best way to fight drug trafficking in Bolivia is to create jobs for the peasants, [applause], to create alternative jobs [applause], to create markets abroad for the staples produced by our peasants. This is what we said about coffee. [applause]

"To fight drug trafficking in Bolivia we must invest in Bolivia. We will not agree to make the Bolivian people any poorer than they are to fight drug trafficking, because that would be unfair. [applause]

"As president of Bolivia I must defend the Bolivian people. When I swore on the Bible and before Jesus to be the president of all Bolivians, and a good president at that, what did I swear? I swore to defend the lives, the interests, the economy, the money, the jobs, the health, the education, the honor, the hope, and the future of all Bolivians. That is what I swore when I became president of Bolivia. [applause]

That is my foremost duty, and just as I take care of my own people, I respect the efforts of Presidents Bush, Barco, and Garcia to take care of their peoples. However, we must all agree so no single nation ends up paying the bill for all of mankind."

After this ceremony, President Jaime Paz Zamora was declared guest of honor by the mayor of Coroico. He was also greeted warmly by the local peasants who have given up producing coca leaves in favor of other crops. President Paz Zamora also visited the various facilities of the Agro-Yungas project, which he labeled very positive.

Says U.S. Cannot 'Impose' Opinions

PY1302024090 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—The success of the drug summit to be held in Cartagena de India on 15 February by the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, and the United States will depend on the sincerity and frankness with which the subject is handled. This was stated today by Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora.

During a telephone interview with the private Colombian radio station Caracol ofe Colombia, Paz Zamora said that in Cartagena all the presidents will have to be sincere, talk frankly, and behave reasonably.

President Paz, who will arrive at the summer resort in the Caribbean on 14 February, warned that during the summit he will not allow the United States to unilaterally impose its opinions.

TV Station Criticizes Aid Offered by U.S.

PY1302030090 La Paz Television Boliviana in Spanish 0030 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Station editorial]

[Text] Today's editorial states that everything seems to be ready for the antidrug summit to be held in Cartagena on 15 February. At that time, the Bolivian, Colombian, Peruvian, and U.S. presidents will meet to define common actions to be performed by the coca-producing countries and the United States, which is the country that has more drug addicts than any other country on the entire planet.

President Paz Zamora today explained the Bolivian position on drug trafficking to thousands of coca growers, who gathered at the Coroico settlement in the Yungas Region. President Zamora explained that his administration will do its utmost to fight drug trafficking but will not agree to make the Bolivian people any poorer than they are to eradicate the coca plantations. In Cartagena the coca leaf-producing countries will request of the United States a cooperation that may prove adequate to the problem they are facing.

We discard any other type of help because the United States, which assigns $30 billion to cure its drug addicts, has offered less than $400 million to the three Latin American countries (?that must eradicate their coca plantations). The difference between these two amounts must be fully analyzed.

Defense Minister on Budget Cuts, Foreign Troops

PY1202141090 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Compared to last year's budget, defense is unfortunately the only sector that has experienced a cut.

This remark was made by Defense Minister Hector Ormachea Penaranda. He added that while this is truly regrettable, it will contribute to the country's economic recovery, leading to a process of economic reactivation and not merely to stabilization.

Ormachea pointed out to reporters that the appropriation for the Defense Ministry within the nation's budget is very low. The current situation, however, does not allow for more [words indistinct] shared by other sectors.

The defense minister explained that the current appropriation will barely be sufficient to cover the most basic expenditures such as payroll, food, and clothing. The rest will depend on the country achieving a substantial improvement, which is possible, he emphasized.

The defense minister also said that the entry into the country of foreign troops will not be permitted.

This remark and warning by Minister Ormachea came in response to a question about the participation of foreign troops in the struggle against drug trafficking. He said that the government will not permit the entry of foreign troops because we are capable of waging this struggle despite the (?budget) reduction.

In conclusion, the defense minister explained that upon receipt of orders from the captain general, the Armed Forces will begin to fight this crime.

Chile

MIR Denies Responsibility for Precinct Attacks

PY1302023190 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] has categorically denied that members from its ranks participated in the attacks on two police stations last weekend in which a Carabinero was killed. Patricio Rivas, member of the MIR Central Committee, said that the group that called news agencies claiming responsibility for the attack in the name of the MIR does not belong to his group.

[Begin Rivas recording] The armed actions that took place last week were not carried out by the MIR. It is most probable that they were carried out by state security organizations or by a paramilitary intelligence organization from the Chilean right to hinder the democratic transition. MIR is not interested in carrying out armed activities, first, because it is sure that the democratic transition must be carried out by the people themselves, and second, because the current situation does not call for such actions. [end recording]

The MIR leader said that given the weapons used in these attacks, they must have been carried out by security organization members.

[Begin Rivas recording] This implies two possibilities that are quite believable. The first is that weapons used in the attacks are currently being used only by security organizations becuase they were taken away from the MIR at the beginning of the 1980's and from the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] after the cached arms discoveries. Second, we have learned through former members that none of the factions that split from the MIR have carried out these actions.

Therefore these were very obscure attacks and not in keeping with the political moment we are living in or with the policy of any of the factions of the Chilean left.

Thus, we are officially denying having committed these attacks, and we are authorized to assert that none of the groups that abandoned the MIR have carried them out. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Spokesman Reports on Results of PCCh Plenum

PY1302013990 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] released a public declaration this morning on the results of the eighth plenum of the PCCh Central Committee. Following a report on how the party will prepare a new program to (?adjust) party policy to

the democratic transition process, PCCh Central Committee member Jorge Inzunza said that his party does not at all agree with the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] death threats against General Augusto Pinochet.

Inzunza said that the PCCh does not agree with this kind of threat which will hinder the democratic transition process. He added that his party has formed a government and legislative committee through which the PCCh intends to channel its social demands. The party will study the form by which the people may participate (?through) an autonomous [word indistinct], especially the social organizations, he said.

The PCCh leader also said that his party does not agree with the illegal squatting that is taking place, for example, in the Los Pinos area of the capital. He added that although this process is the consequence of the housing shortage, there are some pro-government sectors that depend on [word indistinct] (?as a) takeover and which the PCCh does not support because it only promotes discontent among the population.

[Begin Inzunza recording] One must assume that there is a real problem here that must be solved. The participation of the social [word indistinct] in solving this problem will help to [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Inzunza also said that although the PCCh is not pleased with a few of the public officials nominated by President-elect Patricio Aylwin, the PCCh acknowledges Aylwin's capability and authority to appoint whomever he believes is suitable for those posts. Therefore, the PCCh will not express its opinion regarding the appointment of government officials.

He added that his party approves the consensus reached between businessmen and workers, that is, between the Commerce and Production Confederation and the Central Labor Union, since the PCCh favors a social pact, as long as the workers' interest is protected. The PCCh will continue promoting this kind of agreement because it considers it very important to reach a great social-economic pact to help solve the many current social demands.

Colombia

Police Reveal Division in ELN, Terrorist Plan

PA1302140690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—The National Police's DIJIN [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations] has revealed a terrorist plan that the National Liberation Army, ELN, was planning to carry out in northern and eastern Colombia in March and added that this subversive group is divided by differences among its leaders.

A communique issued by this security organization states that, following an exhaustive intelligence investigation, it was concluded that this guerrilla movement is divided because an ELN faction refuses to accept the decisions of former Spanish priest Manuel Perez Martinez.

It also states that the dissident group has accused the former Spanish clergyman and top ELN leader of monopolizing economic resources, preventing the modernization of the rank and file, maintaining a security group comprised of criminals, assuming paternalistic attitudes, and employing Marxist ideology to his own benefit.

The report also revealed that the insurgent organization was planning to carry out a so-called key operation in northern and eastern Colombia that would have included the kidnapping of personalities, the occupation of towns, and the assassination of top Armed Forces officers.

Meanwhile, troops of the National Army's 5th Brigade have intensified search and control operations in a rural area of San Vicente de Chucuri Municipality, Middle Magdalena, Santander Department, after killing six ELN subversives and seizing abundant war materiel.

According to the Defense Ministry's administrative report, there was a clash between units of the (Luciano de Luger) Battalion and guerrillas of the ELN's Captain Parmenio Front in La Tempestuosa Path, San Vicente de Chucuri Municipality, Santander Department. Six unidentified insurgents were killed and weapons of various calibers, ammunition, uniforms, documents, and subversive propaganda were seized.

Members of the 5th Brigade are patrolling various municipalities of Santander Department to guarantee normal elections and activities of the national civil registry.

'Death Squad' Avenges Avianca Crash Victims

PA1302040990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0135 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 7 Feb (EFE)—Colombian police reported today that a mysterious "death squad," which kidnaps and tortures its victims before killing them, assassinated Army Col. Luis Javier Lopez Zuluaga (retired), and left a sign on his body, which was thrown into a ditch, reading: "For killing innocent HK victims."

The sign is an apparent reference to "HK-1803," the registration number of the Avianca Boeing 727 airliner that exploded in midair on 27 November with 107 passengers aboard following the detonation of a plastic explosive.

This is the third time in 49 days that the accusation of the alleged "HK avengers" appears on signs placed on their victims' bodies, and five have been "accused" so far.

Col. Luis Javier Lopez (retired) was 55 years old and in the Army until 1978. In 1982, he became security chief for former President and Liberal Party leader Alfonso Lopez Michelsens (1974-1978).

Lopez' body was thrown into a ditch near Soacha, a town 25 km southeast of Bogota; it had six bullet wounds.

The "HK avengers" not only kidnap, assassinate, and torture the alleged authors of this attack, but also other persons.

Thus, during December and January, those accused of the attack on the plane appeared among other bodies of persons who were assassinated in the same manner but who had nothing written to explain their deaths.

A total 51 persons have been assassinated this way in Bogota over the past 49 days.

In the 51 cases, the "modus operandi" was similar: bodies with signs of torture, blindfolded or with hoods, arms and legs tied, and executed with several shots to the head.

Until now, the police have explained that the mysterious assassinations seem to be the result of a battle between drug traffickers because the victims appear to be persons linked to the Medellin Cartel.

Given that 30 similar cases have occurred in Medellin, two weeks ago "the Extraditables"—the armed branch of Medellin Cartel—accused members of the National Police in this city of forming "death squads," and they published their names, vehicle license plates, and other information.

National Police authorities and President Virgilio Barco himself, made statements on that occasion to support the Medellin Police, pointing out that the drug traffickers "lack credibility."

Although no one has claimed responsibility for the attack on the plane, the Administrative Department of Security [DAS—Colombian Secret Police] have said this attack was perpetrated by the organization of Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha "El Mexicano," who was killed on 15 December in a shootout with police.

5.5 Tons of Dynamite Confiscated in Medellin

PA1302000290 Paris AFP in Spanish 2240 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 12 Feb (AFP)—Colombia's elite police corps discovered three caches of a total 5.5 tons of ammonia dynamite during an operation aimed at capturing Medellin Cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria, local police reported today.

The explosives, made in Peru and Bolivia, were discovered inside fiberglass containers in the Caldas and Rionegro Jurisdictions, close to the city of Medellin, headquarters of the Medellin Cartel.

The enormous cache of dynamite was discovered during isolated operations carried out on 11 and 12 February and belongs to the narco-terrorist bands, police stated after reporting the discovery.

The 5.5 tons of explosives were discovered in two containers within Caldas Jurisdiction, 11 km south of Medellin.

The police reported that another cache of 400 sticks of dynamite was discovered during an operation in Rionegro Jurisdiction, 8 km east of the city.

The police corps revealed that a preliminary investigation allowed agents to locate where the explosives were hidden, adding that the search for Escobar Gaviria will continue until he is caught.

The explosives will be turned over to a criminal judge today. The seizure occurred four weeks after the Extraditables—the armed branch of the Medellin Cartel—abandoned a bus loaded with 1,000 kg of dynamite in this city and announced that it would turn over its explosives, cease cocaine shipments to other countries, and stop its terrorist attacks.

Over $4 Million Found at Drug Trafficker's Farm

PA1202191890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1731 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Report by Jesus Garzon]

[Text] Troops from the 13th Brigade have delivered another blow to drug-trafficking organizations in Cuernavaca Hacienda, near Pacho, Cundinamarca Department. Inside, the Armed Forces found containers with $4.85 million in cash, some 2.2 billion pesos. The farm is apparently owned by Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, also known as El Mexicano.

This is the third cache of more than $1 million which the 13th Brigade has confiscated from the late Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha. The money, which was distributed among five containers, was kept in an underground cave.

Troops from the 13th Brigade have confiscated $13.525 million in cash from Rodriguez Gacha on three different occasions. The Army confiscated $5.4 million, also in Cuernavaca Hacienda, in October of last year; $3.24 million in (Fredidos) Hacienda in Guaduas on 2 February; and $4.85 million on 9 February.

During the operation a farm worker was captured and then turned over to a public order judge. The money has been deposited at the Banco de la Republica while a judge and the National Drug Council decide where it will finally go.

Correction to TV Reports on Security

PA1302133190

The following correction pertains to the item published in the 12 February Latin America DAILY REPORT, in the Colombia section, page 37, headlined "TV Reports on Security":

Column one, paragraph one, sentence two make read:...on 14 February [as heard], Presidents Alan Garcia...(adding editorial note)

Peru

Garcia Article on 'Anti-Imperialist Struggle'

PY1202194890 Lima CARETAS in Spanish 12 Feb 90 pp 28-31, 87

[Article by President Alan Garcia Perez: "Drugs: An Anti-Imperialist View"]

[Text] The Presidents of the United States, Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru will meet on 15 February in Cartagena, Colombia. This summit, which was called for in Ica and was actively promoted by Peru, is very important for the world. It is possible that in Cartagena responsibilites will be assumed and firm decisions will for the first time be made.

Peru's presence there is made possible by the announcement that the United States will withdraw its troops from Panama before the end of this month and that it will demand the Panamanian Government hold new elections or call a plebiscite to make it legitimate. This article is intended to review ideas on the drug problem that I have expressed in recent years and to look at those ideas from the perspective of relations between the countries of Latin America and the industrialized North. In those relations, the economic and political clout of the rich countries, among them the United States—together with the voluntary or involuntary domination by those nations—is generally referred to as imperialism. I believe the fight against drug trafficking is also a struggle against imperialism.

Drug production and trade are only one aspect of the overall relations of Latin America with the United States and the industrialized countries. The various aspects are closely related and interdependent. Thus, cocaine production and trade are parts of our countries' model of dependent capitalist accumulation; they are not isolated facts of police interest. Cocaine production increases and expands not only because of greater demand in the rich countries, but because of lower prices of products such as oil (which dropped from $25 to $9 a barrel in 1986) and coffee (wich was reduced by half in 1989). In view of this, the only successful transnational enterprise in Latin America—it is painful to admit—is the one made up of cartels that sell drugs in the rich countries.

On the other hand, the continent has decapitalized in the past 10 years. In 1979, it owed $191 billion. In the following 10 years, it paid $258 billion, but ended up with a debt of $430 billion. Meanwhile, the price of its raw materials declined and the value of its production decreased. Under these conditions, the area of land apportioned to coca plantations in Andean countries is expanding 10 percent every year. This is the result not only of greater U.S. demand and the greed of the drug traffickers, but also of society's overall needs and the migration of impoverished peasants to the new areas.

Drugs are an item of trade between Latin America and the United States. Raw materials and money are traded for human migrations, Latin values, and drugs.

The process of our economies' underdevelopment in this century has addicted those economies to dollars. At the beginning of this century, the relation with world capitalism oriented the Latin American economy toward exporting raw materials. As raw materials were produced, material value was generated. After World War II, foreign relations led to the installation of assembling industries throughout the continent. They were centralized industries whose machinery created little work for the mass of people who fled the fields. With reduced consumer markets, those industries reached their limits in the 1970's. At that time, the relation with the outside world turned into a financial operation to collect the debt generated by the installation of those industries in the previous period. Thus Latin American became addicted to dollars, which it needed to pay its debt, to purchase the parts used in its assembling industries, to compensate for the declining prices of its raw materials, and to finance the lifestyle to which its middle class and business bourgeoisie aspire.

In those circumstances, when IMF-prescribed adjustments became frequent in our countries, our society's need for dollars was associated with impoverishment in rural areas and the demand for drugs by rich countries. The solution was found in exporting cocaine and its by-products. Thus, the coca-ization of our economy is associated with our international relations and with the historical cycles of Peru's economy.

The cultivation of coca is the most perverse form of the influence of imperialism. It is estimated that the retail value of cocaine on U.S. streets is $100 billion; it is the most profitable business in the United States. This is so because it has an assured market of 25 million occasional consumers and nearly 10 million frequent consumers. Of the $100 billion, perhaps $6 billion reaches Latin America. The other $90 billion [as published] is channeled into an informal monetary market in Miami, New York, and California, or is "laundered" through U.S. banks. So, the major part of the business is transacted in the United States.

The perverse consequence is that Peru's best land is given over to coca cultivation. A calculation reveals that 200,000 hectares in the country are planted with coca, while only 120,000 hectares are planted with cotton and 230,000 hectares with rice, the largest crop. Ten years ago, coca was planted on 80,000 hectares in Peru, 35,000 hectares in Bolivia, and none in Colombia. Today, 200,000, 70,000, and 15,000 hectares are planted with coca in Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia, respectively. Millions of liters of sulphuric acid, lime, and toluene are used. The land is continuously eroded and carried into the rivers. Yet, the expansion seems unstoppable

because—if we accept that the sale of cocaine paste brings $700 million into Peru—that sum is greater than the revenue from the legal marketing of copper, fishmeal, or silver. Moreover, directly or indirectly, millions of Peruvians are engaged in the coca economy as squatters, farmhands, transporters, sellers of precursor materials, and merchants of home appliances and other goods in those regions.

The market will most likely grow in the future. According to not too reliable figures from the U.S. Government, the number of consumers is declining while the amount consumed is increasing. This is very serious, but more serious is the fact that the European market is growing at a rate of 20 percent a year. And far more serious still is the fact that the coca market is bound to increase with the disappearance of the Berlin Wall. Bureaucratic and totalitarian East Europe is rediscovering the individual and his freedom. Personal experience is something new in countries of the East. Thus, in coming years—along with individual property and Western music and fashion—cocaine will gradually but surely enter East Europe, which will become part of the future market.

Undoubtedly, the fight against drug trafficking is an anti-imperialist struggle. Peru's position on the drug problem—like its position on the foreign debt; on Central America, Nicaragua, and Panama; or on the international prices of our raw materials—is founded on a doctrine that must not be discarded because, otherwise, the drug problem is wrongly seen as a mere police problem.

The root of the "cocaine problem" lies in the distortion of some of the values that "move" developed societies. As an old song says, the world is changing and will change even more. In East Europe, Soviet perestroyka is dismantling the state and discovering the individual and his freedom. The opposite path should inevitably be followed in the United States; that is, moving away from exaggerated individualism and toward the state that educates. Maybe the fight against drug trafficking will give impetus to this process, which will also be some sort of perestroyka.

I remember that in the 1960's, with the melancholy music of Bob Dylan, the fashion was to oppose the establishment, to investigate the meaning of things, to broaden personal experience and pleasure. It was all a quest for different values. A profound study of the hippie movement's importance has not yet been made. When the Vietnam war ended, its failure and the exacerbation of individualism gave a new sense to the use of drugs. Drugs are no longer used to discover something, but to avoid something. The youth rebellion is dormant and is expressed in other ways. Drug comsumption is becoming widespread, permeating the upper classes. It is not accidental that the mayor of Washington was a drug consumer. Drugs give a sense of lucidity, power, and speed that suits a society that for 40 years has grown used to the images of Superman and Batman. As in ancient civilizations, these movie heroes are anthropomorphic—human beings with extraordinary capabilities for whom "kryptonite" is the countervalue of cocaine, its negative anticipation. Brought up with those anthropomorphic stereotypes, today's adults are predisposed to drug comsumption.

The same logic applies to other symbols of behavior. The Pentagon's militarist "hawks" and the "invisible" planes are for the average citizen proof of his invincibility and omnipresence. The powerful U.S. fleets in the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf, and the Caribbean, together with all the other images etched into their personal experience, are behind the drug experience as a psychological power enhancer. It should be noted that as all symbols and values, these are only temporary. Cartoons are no longer anthropomorphic now. Whoever studies them to see the stimulus directed to our children will notice that they are now "Transformers" or "Thundercats." Through this change, one can see that the industrial society, in a subconscious reaction, is defending itself from the drug habit by taking away from the human being the enormous power represented by Superman and Batman, and giving it to machines and animals.

A change in the symbolic world, which will reassign to human beings the exact limits of their experience and personal pleasure, has begun. So far, the cocaine consumer, lucid and untiring, is a member of today's all-powerful and invading society. This may be why in Peru, where 60 percent of the world's coca is produced, only 0.5 percent of the people consume cocaine, and two percent cocaine base [as published]. The reason for that is not only because those two substances are expensive, but also because the values prevailing in our society are different. This may also be the reason that the polls show the upper classes of society, which imitate the foreign "way of life," [three preceding words in English] consume more cocaine.

The solution, therefore, must be an integrated one; it must have an economic and a cultural aspect. After 10 years, we know that police repression and legal punishment have been overcome by economic profit and cultural stimuli. This is a problem that demands huge economic resources to compete with the $100-billion profit obtained from the sale of cocaine on U.S. streets. In the countries where cocaine is produced, police action is important but complementary, and in the consuming countries, the state must reassume its role as teacher. I believe that the national campaigns and the television campaigns launched to inform the people will not succeed in replacing the state as teacher. As psychosociology students know well, radio and media campaigns launched during World War II were aimed at reducing beef consumption in the United States and increasing the consumption of visceral meat. The goal was not achieved until a change in consumption habits began to be preached by informal leaders and institutional authorities (doctors, priests, teachers), thus gradually changing the guidance given to society. I believe the U.S. Government should follow this example.

The solution to this problem, however, is a long-term solution. Only if we understand that will we be able to resist rushing forward into mistaken policies. I do not mean that we must overlook the urgency of finding a solution to the problem. I simply mean that we must have a correct idea of its importance and extent. To believe in a short-term solution inevitably leads to a militarist police logic; i.e., to the destruction of the plants by force or through Spike herbicide, or to the occupation of the Huallaga Region in Peru or the Chapare Region in Bolivia by U.S. troops. We already know that the eradication of the coca plants by force has merely led to an increase in the area cultivated, even though 5,000 hectares were eradicated in 1988. Rushed or military measures complicate the national problems and again create certain conditions; the grower leaves the zone where the coca was eradicated and occupies new land, or he is left in absolute misery and thus becomes a potential member of the subversive groups. One way or the other, the informal societies of coca growers defend themselves by organizing their members. The Federation of Tropic Chapare Peasant Workers in Bolivia consists of 657 unions and has 20,000 members. In the High Huallaga Region, there are dozens of organized communities and a cooperative that includes them. We must realize that if this organization has defensive objectives, it will also allow us to deal with the peasants in an organized manner. This is not only possible; it is the key to the solution.

U.S. society must try to make an alliance with the Andean coca growers. Considering that the growers are already organized, or are about to become so, we will realize that they can be the most effective allies in the fight against drug trafficking. I have never believed that the solution to this problem is to give a few weapons to the Peruvian or Bolivian Governments, for two reasons. First, we know that the governments' greatest problem is having no communication with society, especially with the society of the expanding regions. Second, the truth is that these regions are more connected to the U.S. drug consumers than to their own governments and fellow countrymen. This situation must be modified and used positively.

An integrated economic program is essentially a responsibility of the United States. This is one of the basic political decisions to be made at the Cartagena summit.

1. It is true that the coca plantations must be replaced by coffee, cocoa, annatto seeds, and oil palms. The profitability of these products depends on the technology used for planting, on improved seeds, and on fertilizers. All of these are widely available in the United States. For geopolitical reasons, Egypt is receiving $2.1 billion in aid. If only a small part of this help were assigned to the Huallaga Valley, it would be enough to flood the region with fertilizer, machinery, and improved seeds. The success of the replacement program will depend on the price to be paid for the crops. This price must be ensured in the long-term through a fund, which will not be a donation, because it will buy the products and material resources to be generated in the region, which is currently producing only coca leaf.

2. An additional element is the need for a stable market for these products, and this is subject to a political decision by the U.S. administration or its Department of Commerce. A suggestion would be to eliminate taxes on substitute products, or decree that purchase of these products has priority precedence over those from other countries or regions, or make a political decision to purchase the entire production of these substitute crops.

3. All of this will be more feasible as production is adequately transformed. It is one thing to sell coffee and cocoa and another to transport instant coffee or bars of chocolate. This is why the United States should encourage U.S. or Peruvian enterprises to set up factories by granting very long-term credit lines, charging little or no interest at all.

4. By using aircraft the drug traffickers have made it quite clear that coca leaf plantations can only be replaced through means of air transportation. That is, by using some of the thousands of large aircraft the United States has. Looking carefully, one can see that nothing has been donated or given away so far. We talk about commercial measures and credit lines for new products.

5. However, substitution of coca plantations not only affects the peasants. An integrated economic program should take into account the overall effect it will have on the coca-producing countries' economies. Although illegal, the sale of coca grants society foreign currency and resources. It is estimated that Bolivia produces 120,000 tons of coca leaves which, turned into cocaine paste, is worth some $1 billion, of which more than $500 million enters the Bolivian economy. In Peru's case, it produces 170,000 tons of coca leaves which, turned into cocaine paste, represents an income of almost $700 million for Peru. It is estimated that Colombia currently makes some $1 billion on the production and marketing of cocaine. Although this is a large amount of money it is undoubtedly less than the $3 billion it made some years ago. An overall solution should provide resources to the countries so they may be able to equalize their balance of payments and thus honor their commitments to financial organizations, or financing for employment and production, or exportation policies that may make up for those dollars that cease to come in through coca leaf production.

The IMF adjustment policies have contributed to the coca-ization of our countries. We have already mentioned how the relationship with capitalism today is merely financial; requesting more loans to pay old debts, contracting impoverishing societal consumption to honor commitments to the banks; opening markets to foreign products thus causing domestic production to drop which, in turn, causes unemployment. All these are overall policies that encourage people to obtain dollars through coca leaf production.

But use of the IMF economic policy tools also contributed to the coca-ization of the economy. For example, when there is an official dollar exchange rate, and at the same time a floating or black-market rate, the dollars obtained from cocaine are marketed without state intervention. But the letters of intention demand that the official dollar rate float, that is, that it adjust to the parallel dollar rate and this is when the state starts purchasing or using narco-dollars. The IMF, paradoxically, while repressing dollar consumption grants the state a mechanism to consume these narco-dollars. This is the case of Decree 21060, issued by the Bolivian Government in 1985, which freed the exchange rate, and of some similar cases in our country.

It is a mistake to believe that narco-dollars are a resource for development. In the first place, because the Andean countries receive only a minimal portion of the overall profit. If the retail price of cocaine in the United States is $100 billion the bulk price is $25 billion, but it is estimated that only some $6 billion returns to South America.

These dollars enter the black market, finance terrorism, and are deposited in foreign banks. These dollars go to higher-income groups and encourage imports. Moreover, the mass of dollars causes a large portion of the national liquidity to be frozen in a compartment parallel to the formal economy. For every $1 million purchased or sold on the streets or in exchange houses, there is its equivalent in intis, at the black market rate, that will be used the next day in the hands of people engaged in changing currency . This mass of money in circulation is neither invested nor used for consumption. Drug trafficking encourages speculation, increasing the black market rate, and in turn, the mass of intis frozen outside the productive system. Therefore, some of those resources only reach the country's productive apparatus, or its balance sheet, indirectly. The main portion goes abroad or neutralizes a large portion of the national currency.

Repression is complementary, even though it demands more technological resources. The statements by U.S. presidents that we could use personnel to manually pull out the plants, some electric saws, and five or six helicopters, are not appropriate. If a world power understands that the drug threatens its national security it should place its satellites and other technological means at the disposal of countries that have decided to combat the problem. The trick, so far, has been to give underdeveloped countries underdeveloped means. The use of radar on the Peruvian-Colombian border is essential. The control of the chemical and weapons market can easily be accomplished by the U.S. Government through modern technological means. It is also essential to investigate the origin of funds deposited in U.S. banks if their source is not clear.

What is new about George Bush's 5 September message is that he talks about these issues, but it should not be a mere declaration. Besides, police or military repression is a very sensitive political issue in our countries. The Panama invasion calls for a careful interpretation of any armed presence in the area. The 9 October 1989 issue of THE WASHINGTON POST mentioned a State Department national security directive for military action in the Huallaga Valley. The Andean countries will not accept any unilateral measure because of its political complications and because it would end legitimizing the coca underground. An integral action, therefore, demands that Europe be present at the side of the United States in its dealings with Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia. We have said before that Europe is the future market, more so now that Eastern European societies are joining Western Europe.

The cultural condemnation of coca should be dropped. American society should be well informed of the difference between coca and cocaine without falling into a proposal for legalizing it. American society should progressively and naturally accept the idea that the coca leaf is not something evil. The coca leaf should not be condemned or ignored just because it is the raw material for cocaine and is involved in a criminal trade. It is unfair to ignore, for political reasons, the virtues of coca or its alternative uses since our civilization is full of stimulant drugs such as coffee, tobacco, and alcohol.

Hundreds of experts have studied the physiological and medicinal use of the coca leaf, its effect at high altitudes and at very low temperatures, its relation to the blood's viscosity, its use in controlling glycemia, its effect on weariness and stress, and its anesthetic properties. In fact, coca is highly superior to coffee and tea. Perhaps the coca leaf will join the other great stimulants, coffee, tobacco, and tea, in the near future. Coca-Cola used a little mixture of cocaine in its original formula. Today it continues to use the leaf as a flavoring ingredient in its secret formula despite campaigns against cocaine and the coca leaf in the United States. I have seen U.S. officials talking against coca with a glass of Coca-Cola in their hands.

In sum, for these and many other reasons, the fight against the drug is an anti-imperialist struggle that must be fought systematically and responsibly. The Cartagena summit is an essential step in that direction.

Garcia Expresses Confidence in Cabinet

PY1202192090 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] President Alan Garcia Perez today expressed his confidence in the full Cabinet presided over by Senator Guillermo Larco Cox. The incident involving the interior minister has been resolved, President Alan Garcia told the local media after delivering 37 dump trucks to the representatives of several provincial and district municipalities. The president also reported that on 14 February he will travel to Cartagena, Colombia, to participate in the summit with the presidents of Colombia, Bolivia, and the United States, on 15 February.

President Garcia said he received very few suggestions on the summit talks from Peruvian politicians because they are involved in the election campaign.

Interior Minister Says $800 Million Needed

PY1202181290 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Interior Minister Agustin Mantilla has said that Peru will need at least $800 million to develop coca farm replacement programs in the Peruvian jungle area.

Mantilla Campos said (?this important) investment will be forthcoming from the agreements to be reached at the Cartagena antidrug summit.

Garcia Weathers 'Political Storm' Over Minister

PY1302004190 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1950 GMT 12 Feb 89

[Text] Lima, 12 Feb (AFP)—Peruvian President Alan Garcia was weathering a political storm today after the opposition labeled his decision to confirm Interior Minister Augustin Mantilla as "offensive to democracy."

Minister Mantilla had submitted his irrevocable resignation following an incident on 7 February when police officers fired pellets that injured Henry Pease, a sociologist and the United Left's presidential candidate. Pease was leading a campaign march aimed at the elections slated for 8 April of this year.

Pease stated that Garcia, who this weekend asked the interior minister, one of his most trusted assistants, to withdraw his resignation, should appoint a transition cabinet to guarantee the elections. Pease added: "We can see that an atmosphere of total insecurity is being created."

In an interview granted to a Lima TV station last night, Pease asked: "How can we feel protected by an interior minister who is linked by a congressional investigative committee report to the self-styled Rodrigo Franco paramilitary command."

Several other Peruvian politicians severely criticized the president's decision to keep his interior minister. The United Left also announced that it will call a "popular march" for 15 February to protest this "offense against democracy" and to demand the resignation of the current Cabinet.

Writer Mario Vargas Llosa, the presidential candidate of the liberal Democratic Front, who is the favorite in all preelectoral surveys, joined the protests and criticized President Alan Garcia's political "inconsistencies." Vargas said: "(?The people) have lost all confidence in those who rule and in those who engage in political activities."

He added: "We must change this feeling because the people's loss of faith in politics or their belief that politics is nothing but a farce, a circus, is very serious for democracy."

Socialist Christian Party Senator Felipe Osterling said the government ignored the fact that "the constitution is the civic bible of the state," by not accepting Mantilla's irrevocable resignation.

When he withdrew his resignation, the controversial interior minister stated that his main concern will be to "guarantee clean and democratic elections. The sovereign will of the people will be respected." Mantilla told a Lima TV station that "there is nothing to fear. Terrorism is our only common enemy."

Guyana

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Signs Agreements

FL1202165990 Bridgetown CANA in English 2342 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 11, CANA—Venezuela's Foreign Minister Dr. Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart has ended a two-day visit by signing agreements to strengthen the two countries bauxite, forestry and electricity sectors. Figueredo said his discussions with Guyana Government officials were held "within a process of excellent relations between Guyana and Venezuela."

Guyana's Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson said the highlight of the visit was the signing of a protocol of intent paving the way for linking Guyana's electricity grid to Venezuela's Guri Dam electrical network.

Figueredo told newsmen that Venezuela has already started pushing ahead with the technical studies for the electricity project which could cost over U.S.100 million dollars. "We have already started tapping who would be the sources of finance for this project and our view is that... This is of great significance to both countries," Figuredo said.

An agreement for the strengthening of co-operation efforts in other areas including in the bauxite, forestry and financial sectors had also been finalised during Planchart's visit. He said Venezuela intends to "go very far in co-operation" with Guyana in the area of bauxite and other fields where there could be joint ventures.

He said as a result certain difficulties plaguing a bauxite deal between Guyana's Bauxite Industry Development Company (Bidco) and the Venezuelan company, Interalumina, were resolved. Neither Figueredo nor Jackson specified the differences related to the "commercial relationship," but these were related to Guyana's failure last year to ship the amount of bauxite to Venezuela under the agreement.

A joint statement issued at the end of the talks said the two ministers "saw the need for an improvement in communication between the two parties".

Jackson said that Bidco and Interalumina have signed an aide memoire which deals with and they were reviewed during the talks. [sentence as received] "I am confident that as a result of the discussions... Whatever might have been the differences in the past, there is now a different approach," Jackson said.

In relation to the financial co-operation, neither the ministers nor the official statement gave any details. The statement said however that the two ministers "reviewed the financial programme between the Venezuelan Investment Fund (VIF) and the Bank of Guyana, with a view to finding a formula to ensure its smooth and effective functioning."

Figueredo said Venezuela was also interested in Guyana's forestry sector. He said however there had been a change in the Venezuelan company which is likely to participate in a joint venture involving Demerara Woods, a state-owned company currently operating a complex at Mabura Hill, in the heart of Guyana's hinterland. "I am confident that whatever the mechanism, it would be promptly implemented. This is an important project and it would be carried through," he said.

Figueredo said work on two other projects—a gymnasium and a building to house the faculty of health sciences at the University of Guyana—would be resumed soon.

Third Bombing Hits Georgetown; Tension Mounts

FL1202141590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2153 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 9, CANA—Georgetown on Friday [9 February] experienced its third bomb blast in five days as tension mounted in the capital city. The blast took place around 0745 hours (local time) on the parapet near a control box for traffic lights at a busy intersection. It occurred a few hundred yards from where the first explosion took place Monday [5 February].

While three passers-by were slightly injured in the first blast, no one was injured Friday. No-one has claimed responsibility for the seven bombs discovered here this week and the police say they have not made any significant progress in their investigations. The devices are all home-made galvanised pipe bombs.

Guyana police have started a patrol to protect government property because of the bombs, found at places including the Guyana High Court building, a telephone junction box, and a sewerage distribution cabinet. Deputy Police Commissioner Roberts said damage caused by the explosion of two of the bombs could have been greater since the devices were very lethal, and from the analyst's report had the potential to cause serious injury. The bombs were all placed externally and conspicuously at the target areas.

Recent Bomb Blasts Confound Government, Parties

FL1202174290 Bridgetown CANA in English 2127 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Report by Courtney Gibson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 11, CANA—The discovery of a number of home-made bombs has left Guyanese confounded as to who are the culprits and what are their motives. No individual, group or organisation has claimed responsibility and the police have made little progress in their investigations. The opposition Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) and the Roman Catholic Church newspaper said the seven bombs, three of which went off, represented nothing more than an "orchestrated scare campaign." Officials say the bombings could have serious implications for the government's economic recovery programme (ECP), the lynchpin of which is attracting foreign investment.

Three people were slightly injured by shrapnel from the first explosion which occurred on the morning of February 5 near a telephone junction box. Police said seven bombs, each about 12 inches long and made of galvanised pipe, were found within a few days in the capital. Neither the police nor the government has pointed an accusing finger at any organisation.

A year ago at the height of industrial disputes in the sugar and bauxite sectors, accompanied by arson, and bomb attacks, the government blamed the opposition and three PPP activists were charged with treason. The government has however warned that it will deal "swifty and severely" with anyone or organisation disrupting the peace and stability of the Cooperative Republic.

The PPP and the Democratic Labour Movement (DLM) have brushed aside the government's comments on the issue, insisting that the ruling Peoples National Congress (PNC) was behind the bombings. PPP's central executive member Clement Rohee contends the bombings were aimed at stirring up hysteria in the country as part of a build up to the presentation of the 1990 budget. Rohee said the budget is likely to include another devaluation of the Guyana dollar.

"We are of the opinion that it is quite possible that there are elements within the ruling regime who wish to preempt any possibility of free and fair elections in 1990," Paul Tennassee, leader of the DLM, said.

However the Working Peoples Alliance (WPA) has taken a cautious approach to the bombings. The WPA, despite denials from the government, has consistently accused the ruling PNC of being involved in the bomb death of its leader Dr. Walter Rodney. WPA's co-leader Rupert

Roopnarine deplored the "senseless provocation" and said the culprits must be opposed to a peaceful process to solve Guyana's problems.

Government's spokesman Christopher "Kit" Nascimento in dismissing the allegations against the government pointed out that immediately after the first two explosions, the police launched an urgent and organised search of the capital, diffusing several other bombs. In his latest publication the NEW NATION, organ of the ruling party, said the bombs were the work of "some fanatics" and urged nationals "to be on the lookout". "We hestitate to contemplate the disaster which could result from the senseless placing of bombs by some fanatics. The consequences are too horrible to contemplate," it added.

The Roman Catholic Church publication, THE CATHOLIC STANDARD, said it was "unequivocally condemn the scare campaign being waged, no matter who is behind it." [sentence as received]

Opposition Party Calls on People To 'Rise Up'

FL1202141690 Bridgetown CANA in English 2232 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 9, CANA—Guyana's opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) on Friday [9 February] declared that the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) is "in a desperate situation" and called on all Guyanese to "rise up and resist" what it described as the "anti-people" policies of the government.

Elaborating on the PPP's call, Central Executive Committee member Clement Rohee told CANA that "this is basically a (?mobilisation call) on the people to get themselves organised in whatever social or political organisation they might be associated with in order to fight back against the impending hardships—the hardships that are likely to come with the new budget". He said "it is the job of the opposition forces to call on the people to mobilise themselves to resist", but the call to rise up should not be seen in the context of attempts to create hysteria among the people.

In a statement, the PPP said the government's "desperate situation stems from all its plans for its economic recovery programme (ERP) being upset. "Consequently, it is furiously selling out our heritage and dashing hither and thither in search of alms," the PPP said. It added: "The expected loans have not materialised because an International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement has not been signed. This non-signing is due to the support group of countries not coming up with the anticipated bridging finance—the amount needed to pay area and other creditors. Also the government has failed to meet interest payments on the public debt. Foreign companies are no doubt worried about putting more 'good' money in Guyana in the hope of recovering unpaid 'bad' money...".

The PPP also forecast that the government's coming 1990 budget "will see yet another steep devaluation," as well as "more dismissals and higher unemployment" and that "the poor and the business community will once again be hard hit".

Meanwhile, the PPP's call on Guyanese to "rise up" has come in the midst of growing concern here about the discovery of a number of home-made "pipe bombs", three of which have exploded in the city.

Suriname

Former Hostage Says Kidnappers Looking for Drugs

FL0902185290 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The spokesman of the Tucayana Amazon Indians, (Matu), said that the splinter group that kidnapped him and six others were looking for money and drugs allegedly in the possession of the leader of the Tucayanas, Thomas. (Matu) said this yesterday during a press conference at Zanderij. He said further that the splinter group led by (Piko Cebayo) wanted to overthrow the leadership of the Tucayanas because he was dissatisfied with it. According to (Matu), he was badly manhandled by the kidnappers who tried to force him to give them information about alleged drug activities of Tucayana leader Thomas.

(Matu) was kidnapped some 2 weeks ago by the splinter group in the Amerindian village of (Pikisoron) and taken to Apoera in the Nickerie District. He was freed this week by Tucayana leader Thomas. According to (Matu), he was freed after 2 months of negotiations with the rebels. The rebels have since fled to Guyana, said Tucayana spokesman (Matu).